

Senate Bill 128 proponent written testimony

SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Carolyn Standifer

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Senator Caryn Tyson, Senator Virgil Peck, Senator Tom Holland, and the members of the Kansas Senate Committee of Assessment and Taxation,

I grew up in Kansas and have lived here my whole life. I attended Wichita public schools (USD259) Kindergarten through grade twelve. I wish I could feel comfortable and excited about my son (10 years old) and daughter (11 years old) attending public school in Wichita, I do not. My experiences were less than ideal and I am choosing something better for my children. My wife and I have chosen to pursue a world class education for our children. My son and has attended The Independent School since pre-kindergarten and my daughter has attended since kindergarten. Our children are challenged and have excelled in a college preparatory private school environment. Our children will be a citizen any state or republic would appreciate. Our children to give back to society.

The cost of all of this has been born by my wife and I. We have averaged approximately 12,000 dollars per child per year for our children's education. Prices continue to rise each year. By the time they have completed kindergarten through twelfth grade, we will have expended approximately 312,000 dollars in tuition alone. This, just to ensure their education prior to college. The State of Kansas, by certain estimates, spends in excess of 50% of its budget on educating students, of which my children do not benefit. This bill would rectify in a small amount some of that shortfall.

Politics today are viewed through many lenses. There are constituencies that advocate strongly against my position. I believe in funding the greater good. However, in this particular situation, it appears disingenuous to continue to charge my family for a product I have little interest in purchasing.

Schools in Kansas lack a mechanism to hold them accountable, this bill would be a step in the right direction. Thank you all for broaching this first step and I look forward to any opportunity this bill may take in becoming state law.

Sincerely,

Andrew Standifer