

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Matthew Jahnke

TITLE: Kansas Taxpayer

EMAIL ADDRESS: mattj103@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPOSER, OPPOSER, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB 128.

I am a Kansas taxpayer that has many family members currently in Kansas public schools. I am disappointed to see the legislator is considering taking funds from our public schools to support private schools. Public schools which have already been inadequately funded by the legislator. The legislator should be committed to the success of Kansas students and the evidence does not support that this will lead to a significant increase in Kansas student's success. I am also concerned that this bill will disadvantage our most vulnerable students, including those with disabilities or special needs.

Children should have the right to an adequate education. Based upon this core principal I fully support the right of a parent to send their child to a private school that provides an adequate education. Including private schools that provide an adequate education as well as a religious education, regardless of the religion. I believe the legislator agrees with my support for the right to freedom of religion. However this bill does not support that right and will make a child's religion a factor in their educational options. I am strongly opposed to the legislator using my tax dollars to support any religious education. It is not the place of the legislator to utilize Kansas's tax dollars for any religious purpose.

Please consider these concerns as you evaluate SB 128 and OPPOSE the legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Jahnke

Kansas Taxpayer