

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Adrienne Newlin

TITLE: BV school district parent, SM school district aunt

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BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written only testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

My oldest graduated from Blue Valley Southwest in 2022 and I currently have a sophomore there. I also have two nephews who are in elementary and middle school in the Shawnee Mission district. I own my business and having high-quality public schools is a big deal to my business and to the future of our state. We have seen an influx of people moving from the coasts to the midwest and Kansas (especially Overland Park) has been a huge draw for them. We are seeing new businesses, infrastructure improvements, housing, etc. and the demand will continue as long as we continue to have high-ranking public schools. We absolutely cannot take public school funds and divert them to private and home schools.

- Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools that accept and educate all children.
- Instead of funding private schools, the legislature should focus on fully funding special education, which currently has a shortfall of \$160 million.
- Private schools that can pick and choose which children they want to serve should not receive our public dollars.
- Rural students (and communities) are harmed as public school resources are drained and students lack little to no private options. Rural communities will end up subsidizing private school tuition for families in metro areas.
- KS does not have the funds to offer tax credits to families with children in accredited or non-accredited “private schools”. You will bankrupt our state.

Please vote **NO** on bill SB 83 and keep funding our public schools a priority.

Adrienne Newlin

Parent of a current Blue Valley high school student and a 2022 BV grad; aunt of two Shawnee Mission students

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