



March 6, 2024
Senate Committee on
Assessment and Taxation

Dear Chair Tyson and Members of the Committee,

Americans for Prosperity believes the purpose of education is to help students discover, develop, and deploy their unique abilities. Every student deserves access to an education that unleashes their extraordinary potential – regardless of their family income or ZIP code. We support policies that move us away from the one-size-fits-all approach that dominates our current education system and closer to an environment of personalized learning, where every student is empowered to realize their full potential. Because of this, we are asking you to support SB 509.

We view this bill as one additional way to empower parents, but we believe we should continue to look at additional policies that offer a wide variety of educational opportunities, empowering families to secure the best possible education for their children.

Families ought to be able to tailor their children's education to their unique needs and talents, ensuring personalized learning experiences because parents, rather than bureaucracies, should have authority over their children's education.

This bill acknowledges the necessity of providing educational freedom for those assigned to low-proficiency schools, regardless of family income. The expansion of this program to include students assigned to low-proficiency public schools provides a lifeline to those most in need of real educational alternatives. Ensuring eligibility to low-income students attending unaccredited private schools, this bill ensures that these families aren't excluded from the program for seeking the best education possible for their children.

Every child is unique and our educational options should reflect that. The current way of delivering education in Kansas is a one-size-fits-all approach that provides limited flexibility to families. And the data shows that families want the opportunity to customize and tailor education to their children's specific needs- more than 74% of Kansas parents agree.

Through having more tools available to them SB 509 - families will be empowered to pursue the education goods and services that help their children discover, develop, and deploy their unique talents.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity- KS