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WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Bridget Mersmann and both my daughter and son, Gianna and Gerard, attend Magdalen Catholic school in Wichita thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

I grew up attending the Catholic Diocese of Wichita schools, K-12. After receiving my teaching degree, I came back to teach in the diocese, being fully aware I would not make as much money teaching in a Catholic school as I could elsewhere. I am passionate about our Catholic Schools, the values we are able to instill in our children with both teachers and parents united in the same mission. There was no question where I wanted my children to attend school, in fact, we moved back to Wichita from Iowa to insure they would be able to attend the Catholic Schools in Wichita. Without the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill, attendance would not be possible for our family as with many others.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so my children and others can have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

Bridget Mersmann
Wichita, KS