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BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written
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Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136.

I believe the importance of providing all children with an education is vital to the success of this country and to democracy. Democracy is a government determined by its people. For the voters to guide and direct our country, all children need to have access to a quality education. "American public education is one of the two foundational elements of our democracy. The other is the ballot itself," says Derek W. Black, a professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. According to the Christian Science Monitor, "...study after study has shown that the more education people have, the more they vote, and the more they participate in a nation's political life." By redirecting funds from public schools to private schools, you are undermining public education and therefore the foundation of our democracy.

Public schools also teach democracy by bringing diverse people together in a shared space with the common goal of learning. Private schools, on the other hand, have the choice of taking a student or not. This often leaves out lower income, disabled, special needs, and those students for whom English isn't their first language.

Furthermore, our tax dollars should not go to private institutions without government oversight and accountability.

Again, I ask you to vote no on bill HB 2136.

Amy Hinrichs
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