

February, 4, 2025

Joyce Aranda  
3313 E Grand  
Wichita, KS  
[principal@allsaintswichita.com](mailto:principal@allsaintswichita.com) 316-682-6021

### **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.

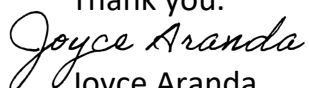
My name is Joyce Aranda and I am the principal at All Saints Catholic school. I have 52 students attending All Saints Catholic School thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program. Without this program, these 52 students would not be able to attend All Saints. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped my school as 30% of my school's population is attending All Saints because of this program.

One particular family that has truly benefited from this program is a family with 8 children. It would not be possible for their children to attend All Saints Catholic School without the support of the low-income tax credit scholarship. This program has allowed this family to choose an education that best suits the needs of their children.

All Saints Catholic School is a very low income school with over 65% of our students on free or reduced lunches. Every child deserves to attend a school that fosters their values and academic needs. All Saints Catholic School is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and help guide them to grow into lifelong learners, good citizens, kind humans, that are generous and value driven.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so my students and other students to follow can have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

  
Joyce Aranda  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [Joel Arnold](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:35:16 AM

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February 3, 2025

Joel Arnold  
2628 W 54  
Kingman, KS  
[joel.isaac.arnold@gmail.com](mailto:joel.isaac.arnold@gmail.com)

#### 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 Joel Arnold and my son Paschal attends St. Patrick Catholic School in Kingman thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

We love the education provided at St. Pats. It is personalized for each student with a focus on the true, the good, and the beautiful. Paschal comes home each day telling us about the exciting things he is learning. We have seen him improve so much as a reader and he has made wonderful friends. His imagination has blossomed at St. Pats and his teachers have nurtured this talent he has. We are so thankful he is able to attend this wonderful school in our hometown.

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

Thank you,  
Joel Arnold  
Kingman, Kansas

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"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: You are mine."  
-Isaiah 43:1

"Behold, I make all things new."  
-Revelation 21:5

**From:** [Fey Barles](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#); [barlesksusa@gmail.com](mailto:barlesksusa@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 8:37:11 AM

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February 4, 2025

Mary Felicity Barles  
826 N. Woodchuck St.  
Wichita, KS 67212  
[barlesksusa@gmail.com](mailto:barlesksusa@gmail.com)

### **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 Mary Felicity Barles and my sons, Mario and Timothy, attend St. Francis of Assisi Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.



In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Mary Felicity Barles  
Wichita, Kansas

*St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!*

Joyfully in Jesus,  
Fey Barles  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Assistant Principal  
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Catechist Levels I/T, I, II, III  
Nazareth House Administrator

   
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*May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people!  
"... that God may be all in all." - 1 Corinthians 15:28*

February 3, 2025

Chair Estes  
Kansas State Capitol  
Room: 268-W, Seat: 80  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Topeka, KS  
Susan.estes@house.ks.gov

**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 Samantha Bogle and my son and daughter, Harrison and Olivia attend St. Mary's Colgan Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Samantha Bogle  
Pittsburg, KS

Jachin Bonura  
Representing Self  
jachinbonura@gmail.com  
785-480-8047

HB 2136 - Expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students scholarship program, increasing the amount of the tax credit for contributions made pursuant to such program and providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions.

Proponent  
February 5, 2025

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee,

My name is Jachin Bonura and I'm currently a sophomore at Kansas State University. I'm writing in support of HB 2136.

Growing up with six siblings is not easy, especially for the parents. My parents are incredible and I have so much to be thankful for. My dad was able to support a family of nine with a teacher's salary alone and managed to send all seven of his kids to a private Christian school. This would not have been possible without the help of ACE Scholarships. I am super thankful for ACE and what they have done for my family.

Going to school in a private school was extremely beneficial to me and I learned some hard life lessons. When attending Cair Paravel Latin School, I was taught how to think, use logic, and become a student leader among many other things. Cair Paravel pushed me past my comfort zones and gave me the opportunity to grow in my faith and education. While at Cair Paravel I was involved in a lot including musicals, football, volleyball, choir, and houses. Not every high school encourages students to be involved in sports and fine arts at the same time, but Cair Paravel does.

My senior year I stepped into a lot of leadership positions including football captain, volleyball captain, student director for the madrigals, worship leader for Convocation, House Captain, and leading a Bible study. All of these opportunities my senior year gave me a lot of responsibility as well as challenges, but nothing I couldn't handle, and Cair Paravel supported me all the way. Cair Paravel is not an easy school by any means, and that's what makes it so great! It challenges you and makes you a better person.

I am now a student at K-State studying Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management and really enjoy it. At K-State I have been able to make and build a huge network of people and make all sorts of connections. These connections will help me in the future with building a business or even solving life problems. Cair Paravel built me up and prepared me so well to embrace the grind of college, that when college came around my first year was really easy and felt light. If I did not build the work ethic that I did from attending Cair Paravel I don't know that I would be at K-State.

If it wasn't for ACE Scholarships I never would have received the education I have and had the

opportunity to attend such an extraordinary school. With the money my family receives from ACE for schooling, my parents are able to send seven kids through an amazing educational school. I can't say thank you enough!

I ask the committee to think of families like mine when voting on HB 2136. A scholarship can be a life-changing opportunity for families across Kansas and every child no matter their socio-economic status should have access to an education that fits them. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jachin Bonura

February 4, 2025

Monica Borger  
9824 West Kenny Lane  
Wichita, KS 67212  
monicacborger@gmail.com 316-461-2443

## **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 Monica Borger and three of five children attend St. Jude Catholic School. Augustine is in 2nd grade, Ezekiel is in Kindergarten, and Cecilia is in Pre-K. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Monica Borger  
Wichita, KS



**From:** [Adam Butler](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136-Catholic Diocese of Wichita  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:21:40 AM

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February 4, 2025

Adam Butler  
917 W 50th St S  
Wichita, Kansas  
[abbutler76@gmail.com](mailto:abbutler76@gmail.com)

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and the 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 Adam Butler and my son and daughter Cole and Arista attend Saint Cecilia Catholic School thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wichita provide a faith-filled, safe, and nurturing environment where students grow academically and spiritually. With smaller class sizes, teachers offer individualized attention, ensuring each child receives the support they need. The dedicated staff see their work as a vocation, guiding students to develop strong moral character and a love for learning. Rooted in Catholic values, these schools foster a community of respect, kindness, and service, creating a foundation that prepares students for success in both faith and life.

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

Thank you,

Mr. Adam Butler  
Wichita, Kansas

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February 3, 2025

Allison Campbell  
Wichita, Kansas  
Ads1113@hotmail.com

**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 Allison Campbell, and my two oldest sons currently attend Blessed Sacrament Catholic School while my youngest son currently attends St. Joseph Catholic School. In addition, my daughter will attend school in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita in the future. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our schools along with the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

Allison Campbell  
Wichita, KS

Proponent Testimony of SB 87

For the Senate Education Committee  
February 6, 2025  
Alexandra Converse

Registered Nurse for All Saints Catholic School

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 87 on behalf of the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill. My name is Alexandra Converse and my son (Major) attends All Saints Catholic School in Wichita, KS. The low income tax credit scholarship program at All Saints Catholic School has significantly helped our students and others in our diocese.

Our school highly values having a diverse population within our walls and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand. Without the low-income tax credit student scholarship, I fear many children will lose the opportunity to gain such an amazing education because of the financial state their family is in. All children should have the opportunity to gain a well-rounded Catholic education without the fear of financial strain.

In conclusion, please support SB 87 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Alexandra Converse  
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Wichita, KS  
67218  
[ascott@allsaintswichita.com](mailto:ascott@allsaintswichita.com)

**From:** [Megan Dinicola](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:43:30 AM

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February 3, 2025

Megan Dinicola  
607 N Briarwood rd  
Derby, Kansas  
[megansdinicola@gmail.com](mailto:megansdinicola@gmail.com)

## **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 Megan Dinicola and my daughters Brooklynn and Addelynn attend Saint Mary Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Megan Dinicola  
Derby, Kansas



Chairwoman Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2136. There is no silver bullet in K-12 education, but many states across the country are enacting, or expanding, educational choice programs to specifically help student populations be they foster children, low-income children, children who are bullied, or children who are unable to read at grade level. A new trend is the expansion of educational choice to be universal, or nearly so, and include eligibility for every student in the state. This is a remarkable trend and recognizes that no one system can serve 500,000 students equally well.

Certainly, many kids receive a quality education in Kansas, but the facts also make clear that many do not. This fact is true across districts and the state. This is true despite the best efforts of countless teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and others working in our public schools.

There is strong parental support for educational choice as well. We conducted a poll in December 2024 in which 78% of Kansas parents or grandparents either strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that, “[ESAs] should be available to all students, with no limits on eligibility.”<sup>i</sup> Those numbers were remarkably consistent across self-identified ideology and party affiliation. The next question in the same poll showed the broad support for *either* educational savings accounts or refundable tax credits, 36% and 37% respectively. The poll was conducted by SurveyUSA; the firm has clients that include the *Wichita Eagle*, KCTV5, and KWCH12.

Simply stated there is widespread, bipartisan support that cuts across geographic regions for educational choice.

I would also like to point out the stagnating overall achievement in Kansas schools and the staggering achievement gaps between low-income and non-low-income children. There are many reasons for these long-term trends, and they must be addressed.

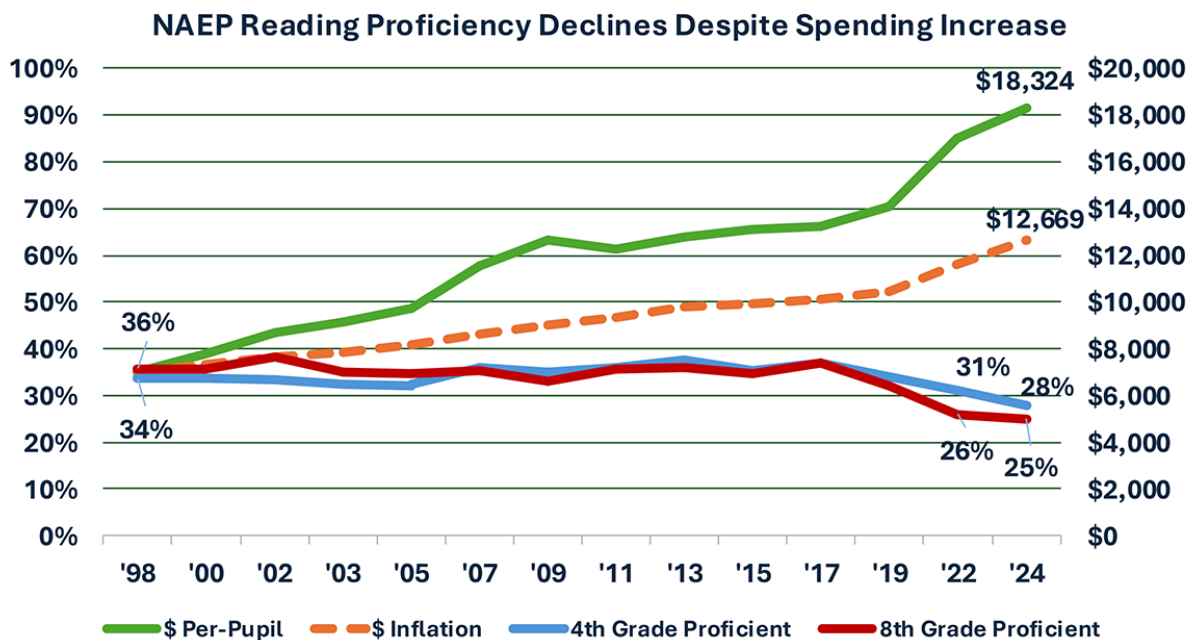
The National Assessment of Educational Progress demonstrates the difference in achievement for low income children compared to higher income students. This is data from a national exam and looks at all students from a statistically valid and representative sample of Kansas pupils.

Not only did the 2022 NAEP composite scores drop considerably from 2019, Kansas students are now performing worse than in 2003. Only one in four Kansas 8th graders is proficient in math or reading. Only 30% of 4th graders are proficient in math, 35% in reading. The proficiency rates for low-income students are much lower. The NAEP data is scheduled to be released tomorrow and I will update this data for the committee as soon as it is released.

The ACT score for Kansas students is slightly lower than it was 20 years ago and only about one in five students are college-ready in English, Reading, Math and Science. State assessment results also reflect stubbornly low achievement overall and persistent achievement gaps.

All of this is against the backdrop of (now dismissed) *Gannon* litigation and increasing school spending. Had per-pupil funding been increased for inflation since 1998, it would have increased from about \$7,000 per-pupil to less than \$12,000; instead, it is now above \$18,324.

## Spending Far Outpaces Inflation but Reading Proficiency is Low and Flat



Source: KSDE, NAEP, BLS

From state exams, to the NAEP, to the ACT, or graduation rates. It is abundantly clear that “achievement gaps” are a tragic reality of education. Not just in Kansas but across the country. Higher income children are achieving academic success at a much higher rate than their lower income peers.

Again, many or even most students across Kansas get a fine education. However, even the lawyers representing Schools for Fair Funding in *Gannon v. State of Kansas* lawsuit testified that too many children are being left behind. The Court itself has also confirmed this point by referencing the 25% of low-income students who are behind their peers academically.

Some are forced to attend underperforming public schools while others struggle to find the right fit to suit individual needs. This is not to say that teachers and school administrators are not amongst our most dedicated citizens. It is simply a recognition of fact and experience.

For some, moving to a different school district simply is not an option as money or a career prevents it. They send their kids to school based upon rigid school district boundaries and hope for the best. For many, the district-based system is sufficient but the numbers suggest that it does not work for everyone.

The *Espinoza* and *Carson* decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the bigoted Blaine Amendments, recognizing them as an outdated relic of America’s past.<sup>i</sup> Also, I would also direct the committee’s attention to “[A Guide to Designing Educational Choice Programs](#)” from the Institute for Justice. This report deals with something this committee has discussed in the past – Blaine Amendments. This report highlights three separate citations for why this idea, Blaine Amendment, should not preclude consideration of educational choice in Kansas - 2004 Kansas Att’y Gen. Op. 2004-5 (Mar. 19, 2004); *Americans United for Separation of Church & State v. Bubb*, 379 F. Supp. 872 (D. Kan. 1974); *Atchison, T. & S. F. R. Co. v. Atchison*, 28 P. 1000 (Kan. 1892).

Kansas Policy Institute is a strong supporter of Kansas public schools and wants them to be the best in country. Our public schools, our teachers, and our administrators spend their lives helping young people learn. Those schools will always be the place where the vast majority of Kansas families send their children.

However, the goal is not to have good public schools in and of themselves.

The goal is to give every Kansas child the opportunity to succeed. That will mean attending a high-performing public school for most children, but it should also include a different avenue for children where the local public school is not the right fit.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present today. I urge the committee to provide more educational opportunity to Kansas parents by advancing HB 2136.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=8076071a-a3ff-42d2-a38d-417a091b958e>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/01/espinoza-montana-bigoted-laws/604756/>

February 4, 2025

Jason and Lauragail Gamble

1926 N. Bellick Ct.

Wichita, KS 67235

**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.

Our names are Jason and Lauragail Gamble and our daughters attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic (SEAS) school thanks to the low-income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

As parents of five children including two young daughters who are currently in second grade and kindergarten at SEAS, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of Catholic education in their lives. The daily integration of faith teachings into their education has become fundamental to their development, nurturing not just their academic growth but their spiritual and moral compass as well. Each day, we see them growing into compassionate, thoughtful individuals who understand the importance of serving others.

The exceptional quality of education they receive is marked by dedicated teachers who provide personalized attention and create an environment where every child can thrive. Their teachers don't just educate; they mentor, guide, and inspire. This individualized approach has allowed our daughters to excel academically while developing strong character traits that will serve them - and our community - throughout their lives.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you to support HB 2136. This program isn't just about education; it's about investing in children who will become tomorrow's community leaders and caring citizens. Your support ensures that families like ours can continue to choose an education that aligns with our values and prepares our children for a future of service and excellence. Without your support, this type of education would not be possible for our family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jason and Lauragail Gamble

Wichita, KS

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



**From:** [Megan Garrison](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:43:19 AM

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February 4, 2025

Megan Garrison  
1430 East Ivy Hill Ct  
Derby, KS  
Garrisonmegan11@gmail.com

## 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 Megan Garrison and my children (Peyton, Caleb, Macie and Harper) attend St. Mary Parish Catholic School in Derby. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you again for your time.

Megan Garrison  
Derby, KS

February 3, 2025

Nicole Gust  
2510 Linksland Dr.  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67502  
nfrazierdds@hotmail.com

**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 Nicole Gust and my youngest son, Benjamin, attends Holy Cross Catholic school while my middle son, Aaron, and daughter, Claire, both attend Trinity Catholic Jr/Sr High School. Our oldest son, Adam, graduated from TCHS in 2023. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Nicole Gust  
Hutchinson, Kansas

February 3, 2025

Celia Hageman

700 Laramie Circle

Maize, KS 67101

[celiahageman@yahoo.com](mailto:celiahageman@yahoo.com) 316-390-4321

#### WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136

Thank you, 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 Celia Hageman and I have 2 sons and 1 daughter that attend St. Francis of Assis and Bishop Carroll, both Catholic schools. I also teach at St. Joseph Catholic School. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our schools and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Celia Hageman

Wichita, KS

**From:** [Kari Hamlin](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** PROPONENT TESTIMONY H.B. 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:26:08 AM

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Thank you members of the House Education Committee for the opportunity to testify in **FAVOR** of House Bill No. 2136.

Living in one of the poorest counties in our state, we are very blessed to have a Catholic elementary school as part of the Diocese of Wichita. The Low-Income Tax Scholarship Program is a crucial component to the success of our school and other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and see the need for it to expand.

Please support H.B. 2136 for the children of not only the Wichita Catholic Diocese but also for the whole community and all our futures!

Sincerely,

Kari Hamlin, M.D.

17620 Grady Rd  
Chanute, KS 66720  
[karibeany@gmail.com](mailto:karibeany@gmail.com)  
785.331.9007

**From:** [Kyndra Hecker](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136 Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 8:20:14 AM

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February 3, 2025

Kyndra Hecker  
1408 East 19th ave.  
Winfield, KS

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 Kyndra Hecker and my son William, and daughter Alaina attend Holy Name Catholic School. The low-income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Kyndra Hecker  
Winfield, KS

February 3, 2025

Bryan Hellman  
3310 N Covington St  
Wichita, KS  
bryandarlah@gmail.com

## **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 Bryan Hellman and my daughter Victoria attends St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic school thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

We believe in the importance of a faith-based education, with God's teaching at the core. While we also appreciate the freedom to choose otherwise, we are appreciative and blessed to have the opportunity to send our child and future children to SEAS.

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

Thank you.

Bryan Hellman  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [Alma Hernández](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:22:29 PM

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February 3, 2025  
Alma Hernandez  
1965 S Beech St.  
Wichita, Kansas  
[alma.grasp@gmail.com](mailto:alma.grasp@gmail.com) 316-519-4194

### **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 Alma Hernandez and my children Isaac, Erick and Ian attend Saint Margaret Mary Catholic school thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

I grew up Catholic, but unable to receive the Catholic education I always wanted to. When I had my first child, there was no doubt he'd attend a catholic school. I am, for the most part, a stay-at-home mom and my husband works in construction; our income is low, but still the kids' education is a priority. Isaac is now in 5th, Erick in Kindergarten and Ian in Pre-K. We are so grateful that our kids are receiving not only the best academic content but also a strong formation in our Catholic faith. We love the community and get involved as much as possible in the school.

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

Thank you.

Alma Hernandez

Wichita, Kansas





## Brittany Jones Testimony in Support of H.B. 2136

House Education

February 5, 2025

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice believes that Kansas should be a place where life is cherished, religious freedom, & families thrive. We believe families thrive when they have freedom to choose how and where they educate their children. It is for these reasons that we urge your support of H.B. 2136.

The low-income tax credit scholarship provides more educational flexibility for Kansas families. In an ever- changing educational environment, parents need every tool available to place their children in a learning environment that fits their child's individual needs. This program is a simple way to empower parents to choose. It has already helped hundreds of Kansas children receive an education that better suits their needs.

Educational freedom is based on one simple idea that parents should have the ability to send their kids to any school that will help their children thrive. It is a child and family centric model. It is not about pitting one type of schooling against another but simply empowering families to make the best choice for them.

More than a dozen other states have similar programs. As this program sees more and more use, it only makes sense to expand eligibility. This program is a great way to utilize the free market by incentivizing investment in our children's education, paired with giving families options who would not normally have educational options.

Parents are best positioned to know and raise their children. Educational institutions can be an asset to this relationship. Recognizing and protecting the fundamental relationship between a parent and their child is vital to ensuring the stability of our society. For these reasons, I ask that you vote H.B. 2136 out favorably.

Thank you!

February 4, 2025

Jason Kolb  
6229 SW Post Rd  
Augusta, KS  
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**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

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

My name is Jason Kolb and my sons Silas and Rowan attend St. James Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese provide a quality education to many children. Some of these children come from low income backgrounds who might otherwise not have the opportunity. We believe expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students scholarship program would further assist our schools in providing the best education possible to children from all backgrounds.

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

Thank you.

Jason Kolb  
Augusta, KS

**From:** [Christina Kreutzer](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:21:28 AM

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February 4th, 2025  
Christina Kreutzer  
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[ckreutzer@stjosephwichita.com](mailto:ckreutzer@stjosephwichita.com)

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 Christina Kreutzer and my two sons and two daughters (Alexandria, Maximus, Bruce & Arabella Kreutzer) attend St. Joseph Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

**Thank you,  
Christina Kreutzer  
Wichita, KS**



February 4th, 2025

Graham Krizek  
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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 Graham Krizek and my daughters, Sage and Rynn, attend Resurrection Catholic School. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Graham Krizek  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [Amanda Lucero](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:01:17 PM

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February 3, 2025

Amanda Lucero  
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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 Amanda Lucero and my sons Jesus and Jose attend Bishop Carroll Catholic High School and my other children, Max, Lorenzo and Aundrea attend St. Anne Catholic School thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

My husband and I love sending our kids to Catholic School. They receive an excellent rigorous education that not only challenges them academically, but spiritually. Having them in a place where they feel safe and accepted is more than I could ask for. Being able to contact their teachers about any concerns I have, or to simply praise the job they are doing is amazing. We transferred from a public school where there wasn't any of that. In the public school one of my children was bullied and another was reprimanded in the 2nd grade for not telling a teacher that another 2nd grader had drugs- my child had no idea what it was. Making the choice to move them to a school where our family values are reinforced has done wonders for our children. Being able to not have to worry about them at school excessively is a blessing thanks to the tax credit.

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

Thank you,

Amanda Lucero  
Wichita, Ks

**Amanda Lucero**  
**Second Grade Teacher**  
**St. Anne Catholic School**  
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**From:** [Ashley Lunkenheimer](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#); [Christopher Korbe](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:19:36 AM

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February 3, 2025

Ashley Lunkenheimer  
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316-640-0670

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 Ashley Lunkenheimer and my son and daughter Ellis and Evan Lunkenheimer attends St Mary Catholic school in Derby, KS.

The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Ashley Lunkenheimer DNP, RN, NE-BC  
Derby, KS

