

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

NAME: Ann Norbury

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: annknorbury@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only Testimony

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2025

Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

Today, I write to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136.

As a parent of three Shawnee Mission School District graduates, I value their public school education. Each daughter attended Kansas universities. And two daughters earned master's degrees.

As a former public school teacher, I champion public schools that serve ALL students. Public funds should support public schools! I am opposed to any voucher system that would direct funds to private schools. Private schools are not required to have accountability and can pick and choose their students.

I'm concerned about a tax credit voucher system that would drain funds from public schools, especially those in rural districts. Of the 105 counties in Kansas, more than 60 counties do not even have the option of a private school. In rural districts the public high school is the center of the community. This voucher plan would decimate rural public schools by directing funding to private schools in wealthy suburban areas. This is unfair! Your legislation should benefit all Kansas communities, not just a select few.

I encourage you to vote NO on HB 2136

Thank you,

Ann Norbury

Shawnee, KS 66203