

**NAME:** Anne Melia

**TITLE:** Lifelong Kansan and product of Kansas Public Education

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**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,

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

My family has multiple generations of proud Kansas public school graduates, K-12 through college. My husband is a recently retired Kansas public school teacher. We chose to stay in Kansas after we graduated from college because of the strong tradition of excellent public education. However, over the past 20+ years it has been a continual fight with our legislature to adequately fund our schools and this is ruining our tradition of excellence in public education.

Leadership in the legislature is continually trying to expand the voucher program beyond its original intent, which was to provide low-income (at-risk) students with an opportunity to attend a private school. I am frustrated that this latest expansion would:

- Open the program up to kids in private school who have never even attended a public school
- Increase the tax credit received by “donors” to the program from 75% to a 100% dollar for dollar tax credit.
- Allow for an increase in the program cap from \$10 million to \$20 million

The donation limit per “donor” (corporation or individual) is \$500,000. Any donation will provide a dollar for dollar reduction in the taxpayer’s tax liability. “Donors” funnel money to private schools and are reimbursed in full by the state. If the tax liability is less than the donated amount, the tax credit can be carried forward to future years.

This is nothing more than a tax avoidance scheme which only benefits corporations and the wealthy while reducing the state general fund used to fund our public schools, maintain our roads and bridges, and more. This is not the way the State of Kansas should be spending our public dollars.

Therefore, I am asking you to vote no on bill HB 2136

Anne Melia  
Prairie Village, KS