

## **Testimony to the House Committee on Education**

**NAME:** Christina Middleton

**TITLE:** Parent and Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** 8617 Greenwood Lane

**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.

I am a parent of two children in the Shawnee Mission School District. I actively volunteer with the Parent, Teacher, and Student Association. I currently serve on the Site Council for Shawnee Mission West High School and have served for the last 5 years.

I have once before given testimony to the House Committee on Education when I came to share my son's journey with Dyslexia in Kansas. I served on the Dyslexia Task Force, and we implemented sweeping changes to support the children of Kansas so that all children would learn to read.

I understand you have a bill to give my tax dollars to private families to pursue private education. This is devastating to children like mine who need extra services from their school. We are already underfunding special education dollars in the state of Kansas. And do you know what happens in a Private School if a student requires special education (IEP) services? They get bussed to public schools to meet their needs as mandated.

### **Public tax dollars belong to public schools:**

- Instead of providing tax credits to fund private schools, the legislature should use those tax dollars to fund special education fully.
- Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools that accept and educate all children and that provide oversight for our tax dollars. We should not be expanding this

program that already funnels tax payer dollars to private schools that lack oversight and are allowed to discriminate in admissions.

- This bill takes money that could be used to strengthen our public schools that serve all kids and gives it to families who have made a personal choice to receive a religious or other non-public education.

In closing, I ask you to vote NO on bill HB 2136.

Christina Middleton

Lenexa, KS