

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

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**BILL NUMBER:** Bill HB 2136

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 5, 2025

Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

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

This bill will expand the Tax Credit Scholarship voucher program that already exists in Kansas; it will expand the program beyond its original intent, which was to provide low-income (at-risk) students with an opportunity to attend a private school. Like other voucher programs, this program diverts public tax dollars to private schools that lack oversight and are allowed to deny admission for any number of reasons.

Ultimately, this bill incentivizes its use as a tax avoidance scheme that can bring big benefits to corporations and the wealthy while reducing the state general fund used to fund our public schools, maintain our roads and bridges, and more.

This bill allows these groups to exploit loopholes in the tax system, diverting crucial public funding away from public schools that serve the majority of students. Instead of investing in equitable education for all, this bill would create a system where the rich have greater access to resources while leaving underfunded public schools to struggle. We need policies that prioritize funding and supporting public education, not enriching private interests at the expense of our children's future.

As a teacher, I will face the reality of my students and I being negatively impacted by this bill. I ask that you please vote no on HB 2136.

Erin Dahl

Kansas Citizen and teacher

Roeland Park, KS