

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BILL HB2136 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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ELECTED OFFICIALS: CHAIR ESTES & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

I APPRECIATE THE YOUR TIME TO HEAR MY OPPOSITION TO
BILL HB2136

I, A CHILD OF A KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR, A STUDENT OF KANSAS SCHOOLS (LSD497) AND A CURRENT PARENT OF STUDENTS IN SMSD SCHOOL DISTRICT, I CAN NOT EXPRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND ENSURING EQUALITY TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, NOT JUST THE ONES WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF A PRIVATE EDUCATION.

EXPANDING THE THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP VOUCHER PROGRAM CAN NOT HAPPEN. THIS WILL FURTHER DIVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL KANSAS CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE OF KANSAS. A FUTURE THAT WILL BE TAKING CARE OF YOU (OR NOT TAKING CAR OF YOU IF YOU DON'T PROPERLY FUND THEIR EDUCATION.)

THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF PROVIDING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS WITH MORE OPPORTUNITIES IS WHERE THIS PROGRAM NEEDS TO STOP.

KANSAS TAX DOLLARS MUST EXCLUSIVELY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND BILLS WHICH CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR WEALTHY (AND CORPORATIONS) TO REDUCE THEIR TAX LIABILITY YEAR AFTER YEAR DOES NOT ENHANCE THE SUCCESS OF KANSAS AS A WHOLE.

EDUCATION TAX CREDITS UNDERMINE THE FUNDING, PROMISED TO ALL STUDENTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS SO DESPERATELY NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

FUND OUR SCHOOLS, FULLY!

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT FUNDS NOT BE DIVERTED TO SUBSIDIZE THE PRIVATE CHOICES OF SOME, PRIVILEGED, PREDOMINANTLY WHITE CITIZENS, WHILE UNDERMINING THE EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES OF OTHERS.

ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTING IN SUPPORT OF HB2136 ARE VOTING TO FURTHER UPLIFT THE PRIVILEGED POPULATION, PROMOTING THE REPUBLICAN GOAL OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE STATE OF KANSAS. DISGUSTING!

A BETTER USE OF TAX PAYER FUNDS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS ON THIS COUNCIL IS TO FULLY FUND OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, I HAVE A CHILD WHOM WAS ABANDONED BY THE STATE OF KANSAS BY UNDERFUNDING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION. THIS MUST STOP. SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN NOT OFFER ALL OF THESE SERVICES ON THEIR OWN.

ELIMINATING FUNDING TO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELIMINATES THE BEST WE CAN GIVE KANSAS, TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE. WEALTHY FAMILIES WHOM PREFER PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY PROVIDING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THEIR CHILDREN WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM TAX PAYERS AT THEIR OWN CHOICE. LEAVE THEM TO THEIR CHOICE AND CONTINUE USING PUBLIC FUNDS

TO FUND PUBLIC CHOICES, NOT THE CHOICES OF THE PRIVILEGED.

ELIMINATING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHILE VOTING TO MOVING FORWARD WITH ANY VOUCHER PROGRAM IS YOU, AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL VOTING FOR THE DEMISE OF KANSAS EDUCATION, ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS AND THE PROGRESS AND SUCCESS OF THE FUTURE OF THE STATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LISTENING EARS, I AM HOPEFUL YOU WILL LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS AND MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR ALL KANSAS CHILDREN AND VOTE AGAINST ANY CHANGE TO VOUCHERS FOR KANSAS SCHOOLS.

JODIE VICKERS, OVERLAND PARK, KS