

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

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TITLE: Kansas Citizen and Parent

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BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

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 who attend public school (Belinder Elementary). My kids have benefited greatly from public school. They have such caring, hard-working teachers and staff who are dedicated to educating all of their students for the betterment of society. They have friends who have special needs and are able to access individualized learning and care due to the funding available. 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. Instead of providing tax credits to fund private schools, the legislature should be using those tax dollars to fully fund special education.

We are a family that is currently considering a switch to private schools. Still, we believe that is an individual family's choice, and there are scholarships and grants available for families who choose that route. We believe public tax dollars should remain with our public schools which accept and educate all children and provide oversight for our tax dollars.

I urge you to vote no on bill HB 2136. Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Smith

Prairie Village, KS