

NAME: Megan Langford
TITLE: Parent in Shawnee Mission School District
EMAIL ADDRESS: langford.megan@gmail.com
BILL NUMBER: HB 2136
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only
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Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony and listening to the concerns of Kansans. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2136.

I grew up in public schools, and my kids are growing up in public schools. Our public schools not only educate our kids, they prepare them for being integral members of society. A strong public education system provides benefits to the entire society, not just the individual students. Diverting public tax dollars to those who choose to send their kids to private school undermines the state's ability to fund our public schools, potentially leaving an underfunded public school system.

Public dollars need to stay in public schools. Public schools accept and educate ALL students. They cannot pick and choose which students to accept. Private schools can choose to admit only the best and brightest students, leaving other children behind. Vouchers like this tax credit program do not provide real choice. Instead of providing tax credits to Kansans choosing not to send their kids to public school, the legislature should be using those tax dollars to fully fund special education, which is currently underfunded by \$173 million.

Please vote no on HB 2136. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Megan Langford