

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

NAME: Molly Dopheide

TITLE: Kansas citizen and parent whose children graduated from Kansas schools

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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 fail to see the value of this measure to me as a constituent. It simply moves money from the State to the wealthiest people in Kansas. Despite offering 'scholarships' to the underprivileged, rural, and special needs students private schools have not successfully lured them to their programs. In fact many Kansas counties don't even have private schools. This leaves the most expensive students relying on public education and those of us not taking advantage of the private education responsible for the greater costs.

It is my belief that universal public education is one of the greatest strengths of our country. Its benefits extend beyond my family and its well-being. Everytime I go to shop, a literate person assists me in my purchases, everytime I visit a hospital, literate people care for me, everytime I hear a song or watch a movie, literate people entertain me. This is what a public education system does. Our public education system is the foundation of this. Please don't underfund it any more.

Please vote no on bill HB 2136,

Thank you for your consideration,

Molly Dopheide

Leavenworth, KS