

Written Only Testimony in Support of S.B. 114  
Brittany Jones  
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Chairwoman Erickson and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones, and I am the Director for Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. We believe that every family should be empowered to make the best educational decision for their family whether that is private school, public school, home school, micro school, or some combination of these choices. We also believe that families should have access to the opportunities that their tax dollars fund. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to express my support for S.B. 114.

Families decide not to enroll in public schools for multiple reasons. Whatever the reasons, these students deserve the opportunity to participate in athletics and the events associated with those extracurricular activities. Laws that ensure nonpublic school children can participate in these activities are often known as Tebow laws. While Tim Tebow is the most well-known student to have utilized a program like S.B. 114, every student deserves the opportunity to compete in athletics and other extracurricular activities. These students do not have to be the best athlete, nonetheless these students deserve the same opportunities as other students.

Kansas joined the thirty states that give homeschool students equal access to athletic opportunities in 2023. However, some school districts have sought to exclude these students utilizing this program from other related events at the school. While I wish that this law was not necessary and schools would not single out students in this way, this update to our current law puts these students on a level playing field with their peers. We should not continue to create a false choice for families simply because homeschool families made a different educational choice for their children.

We should also make sure that schools and KSHAA are not discriminated against private school families as well. I believe this legislative body should promote freedom, empower families, and encourage every student to pursue their best results. That's what this bill is about. It's about choice, preserving options for every Kansas student!

Thank you for your time and your consideration.