

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Nancy Mays

TITLE: Kansas resident, mom of four children raised in the area, business owner, adjunct professor at the University of Kansas

EMAIL ADDRESS: nancy@mayscomm.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 128.

As a taxpayer, business owner and parent, I am wholeheartedly opposed to diverting public funds for private education. And I say this as someone who sent two of our four children to private schools – and attended private schools myself. Never – ever – would I have expected the hard-working taxpayers in Kansas to fund our personal choice to send our children to private school.

My primary reasons for opposing this bill include:

- Our current public schools are in need of additional funding as it is. Diverting funds to private schools will only further crumble our educational system. The future economic strength of our state depends, in so many ways, on a strong education system.
- While I live in Johnson County, I know that our rural schools will struggle mightily if public funds are diverted. Rural Kansas will end up paying for Johnson County students to go to private schools their parents could afford
- Separation of church and state.
- Again, separation of church and state. I grew up going to Catholic schools. I graduated from Bishop Miege. That was my family's choice. Public taxpayer dollars should NEVER support someone's religious upbringing.
- There is no oversight over how these funds will be spent.
- Many private schools employ teachers who are not certified and there will be no way to monitor whether our tax dollars are being used in an efficient manner.

If our state wants to be economically viable, we must fund our public schools. Vote NO on bill SB 128.

Nancy Mays
Mission Woods, Kansas

- Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools that accept and educate all children.
- Instead of funding private schools, the legislature should focus on fully funding special education, which currently has a shortfall of \$160 million.
- Private schools that can pick and choose which children they want to serve should not receive our public dollars.
- Rural students (and communities) are harmed as public school resources are drained and students lack little to no private options. Rural communities will end up subsidizing private school tuition for families in metro areas.