



Alicia (Schartz) Straub
Senator, District 33

SB 128 – Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit
February 7, 2023

Proponent Testimony
Oral In-Person with Written Testimony

Honorable Chair Tyson, Vice-Chair Peck, Ranking Minority Holland, and Committee Members:

First, thank you for this incredible opportunity to present to you, SB 128 the Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit. While the Kansas Taxpayers are working hard, year after year they are handing over astronomical amounts of their hard-earned money to fund our public education institutions. One would assume that with the increased spending on K-12 Education, that student achievement would also be increasing...Sadly, student achievement continues to decline in Kansas.

Why is student achievement declining? I'm certain that there are many reasons why, and I'm also certain that each individual student has a unique situation. I encourage you to read the countless testimonies, in support of SB 128, provided by private school families from across the state as evidence. Public Schools are not the only option, nor should we buy into the propaganda with our tax dollars that they are the best option for all students.

WE CAN DO BETTER! May our state motto, Ad Astra per Aspera, "to the stars through difficulties" be a reminder that we can reach the stars. This bill is only one and a half pages long. It's not rocket science. There are no new definitions or acronyms to decipher, and more importantly it does NOT change any current education statutes, whatsoever. This is a fully refundable tax credit for eligible school age children not enrolled in public schools.

I would like to share some facts and figures with all of you that I requested from KLRD. If you would please refer to the information sheet provided, I can explain further.

Highlights of SB 128:

- Saves Kansas Families with school age children money with a No Strings Attached, fully refundable tax credit.
- Provides real Education Opportunity to ALL Kansas children grades K-12.
- Ensures Parental Rights, and Individual Freedom to choose what is BEST for their children.
- Utilizes the current Education Base Aid funding formula approved by the KS Supreme Court.
- Discourages fraud with existing, and fully applicable laws against tax fraud.
- Encourages a growth mindset in all children, that their learning potential is unlimited.

I respectfully request your support of SB 128, to provide each and every Kansas Child the Opportunity to Reach the Stars.

Gratefully,
Senator, Alicia Straub
District #33