

Regarding Bill SB 128
Proponent written
Feb. 7, 2023

Chairman Tyson and members of the Assessment and Taxation Committee,

My name is Parrish Smith. I am the mother of 4 children who are all attending private school here in Kansas. This has been the biggest blessing for our family and we have lived much differently to be able to send them here. We have seen growth and development in our children, well beyond the classroom because of the safe, healthy environment of this school.

I never wanted my children to experience what I had to go through as a child in public school. I was bullied, 'just a number', touched inappropriately and had very few friends. I thought it was normal until I got to spend my last few years of high school in a private school. I slowly opened up and thrived for the first time in my life. People treated me with respect and dignity. Teachers actually cared, or had time to care. It wasn't just a job for them. It was a high calling. I realize not all children experience what I did, but parents need to be able to choose something else if their child is not thriving. That's what this bill would provide.

I have seen countless children come from public school to our school and within a year, they are unrecognizable. They come in unhappy, untrusting and many times, trouble makers looking for attention. When they don't get the negative attention they thought they would, or don't attract anyone to them by their usual behavior, they begin to change for the better.

We want more kids to have this opportunity to thrive in a healthy environment!! We have families who would LOVE to send their kids to our school but just cannot afford it, even with the grant money our generous donors give. Many families who do send their kids here, live with much less than they otherwise would. They have smaller cars, smaller houses and second jobs.

Please consider SB128 for the sake of Kansas families!

Thank you,

Parrish Smith