

Senate Bill 128
Proponent written

I wish to express my support for Senate Bill 128. the "The Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit". Please understand that parents who choose to send their students to private schools, do so knowing that none of their tax dollars are benefiting the school of their choice. While ensuring that our child received a strong academic foundation, in an environment with clearly defined civic responsibilities and guidelines, which was important to us; we also were looking for a holistic approach to our child's character and values, to prepare her for successful living in an increasingly disparate society.

We are a family of limited means. Our recent graduate received Pell Grant monies and state monies upon enrollment to college, so we are not "elites" sending our child to exclusive schools. As we fought each year to pay tuition, and worked additional jobs to keep our student's school bill current, we felt very keenly the financial pinch. We worked additional jobs, sought financial aid; we denied ourselves family trips, meals, clothes, and drove older vehicles to ensure that funds were there to pay for education of our choosing. We reaped a graduate of solid moral values, discerning choices, and top academic achievements deserving of scholarship. Isn't that the kind of graduate Kansas wants?

Finances are usually the number one prohibitor of parents having a choice for their child's education. As the child is our responsibility to raise, we parents consider ALL options for education and those extra-curriculars that will best benefit our child and their gifts. We will invest where we will get the most benefit. We also know, as parents of a student in a non-public school, we are paying for public school education with our tax money, and none of that money actually helps to educate OUR child, So we are paying double just to have our child educated in Kansas. For families who choose private education, a \$5000 educational base amount would breathe margin into hundreds of Kansas home budgets. That financial margin will permit Kansas families to thrive, and the diversity of school choice will develop a stronger citizenry for the future of our state. This Senate Bill will provide tax relief, a very real support, to Kansas families who would wish to prepare their children through the school which they believe will provide the best structure of learning and support of values for their child's health and success in the future.

Please register my support for Senate Bill 128.

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