

SB 128 – Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit

Proponent Testimony

Oral In-Person With Written Testimony

Linda Borrer,
Ellinwood, Kansas
Senate District # 33

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am Linda Borrer, wife, mother, grandmother, Retired Registered Nurse, a missionary from Kansas who has lived on both coasts, Costa Rica, Honduras, Lesotho, and Haiti. Our first child was born in Haiti and by the time we moved back to the states and he approached school age (and by that time there was a second son) we knew we wanted to go the route of a non-accredited private school. That meant foregoing a second income.

Doing without a larger or better home, newer car or more “things” is not really a sacrifice and does not register on the scale compared to my children’s education. I am currently helping with the education of my 4 grandchildren (grades 1, 7, 9, and 10) because my son and daughter-in-law have chosen the same route we did. I know the financial burden incurred so when asked to help I accepted the responsibility to assume teaching language arts, civics, world and ancient history and also offered to purchase all necessary materials knowing the financial stress it puts on the family.

Do I believe the children are receiving less than an adequate education? Absolutely not. However, a refundable tax credit would certainly allow provisions for many of the additional resources to enhance the mode of learning as well as purchasing additional books and manipulatives to supplement not just my subjects but the others as well including things such as field trips that often are just not feasible to even consider. Give them the choice to purchase the preferred curriculum; not settle for only what they can afford.

It is not just my own immediate family for which I am concerned, but I know families that have talked to me about alternate education of non-accredited private school. They are just not able to take on that added cost. The refundable tax credit presented in this bill would at least offer these families the possibility of trying to do what they believe is best for their child(ren).

Someone remarked to me that there is already a tax credit for the poor. That is true, but others need SB 128 to keep from becoming poor while educating their children! On their behalf ...I kindly ask for your support of SB 128.

Thank you,
Linda Borrer
Ellinwood, Kansas