



Kansas PTA
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February 9, 2023

Written Only. Testimony to Senate Assessment and Tax Committee

Honorable Chair, Senator Caryn Tyson

John Gauntt, Committee Assistant
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Room 123-E, State Capitol Building

Opposed to [Senate Bill 128](#) – Tax Credit for Students Not Enrolled in Public Schools

Hearing: Thurs, February 9, 2023, 9:30 AM Room 548-S

Honorable Chair Tyson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 128 – tax credit for Kansas youth not enrolled in public schools. The Kansas Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America. PTA is a nonpartisan network of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our [legislative platform and priorities](#). [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 125 years ago, focused on facilitating every child’s potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Kansas PTA is opposed to this bill, in this case, for its narrow scope that overlooks most Kansas families. The founding members worked to eliminate threats that endangered children. Over the century, PTA has collaborated to establish programs and called for legislation that improves the lives of all children from the creation of kindergarten classes, hot and healthy lunch programs, juvenile justice system, arts in education, to school safety.

With this continued focus on the lives of all children and families, Kansas PTA encourages committee members to consider more inclusive measures that bring relief and support to all Kansas families. And given the record surplus and rainy day funds, the options have never been more feasible. Consider the immediate relief that elimination of the food sales tax could bring to all Kansas families. This action could help parents today every trip to the grocery store. Or consider supporting the bills to establish an education sales tax holiday. This bill could empower all Kansas families with greater capacity to prepare their children for a new school year of learning. Or perhaps, consider creating a family childcare tax credit, that would help make child care and early learning more affordable to all parents.

The Kansas PTA urges you to vote NO on this bill that appears designed to subsidize private, non-public school systems to the exclusion of all other parents. This bill is in conflict with the vital contributions made by the public education system toward the common good. Note, language in one of the sister bills

that acknowledges that a robust education system, which provides quality access to all students **is a public good** and a benefit beyond those of parents and students.

“The legislature affirms that a quality, individualized education provides an essential pathway to success, not only for each student but for the prosperity and stability of the state” (p.1, lines 5-7, HB 2218).

Kansas PTA stands for every child, with one voice. Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to SB 128 – tax credit for non-public schools.

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Cc: Brooke Burkett, VP of Advocacy;
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Kansas PTA Advocacy Team