

To: Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Ryan Patton
Re: SB 128

Honored senators who are serving on the assessment and taxation committee. First, thank you for serving Kansas and the people you represent. I am writing to voice my support for SB 128 and ask that you pass it out cleanly. I have a five-year-old and another child on the way, and I do not wish to send my children to the Kansas public schools for several reasons. They include but are not limited to the following:

1. Tax dollars' poor use and accountability to support Kansas student achievement.
2. The poor academic results prevalent in the Kansas public school system.
3. The woke ideology that is creeping into the Kansas public schools.
4. A lack of the proper discipline and structure necessary to prepare youth to enter the adult world.
5. The inappropriate mandates of masks, COVID vaccines, and other requirements standard for many Kansas public schools.

The fault for these outcomes rest with the Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas government for allowing such poor performance metrics without accountability. I believe the Kansas public school system is too far gone at this point and not redeemable. For years, my tax dollars have supported a system that has failed at every possible metric, yet the Kansas government continues to throw more money at the problem rather than address the root causes.

The Kansas Department of Education has the data on its website to show how woeful our public schools are performing. Yet we continue to ask less of the students, increase the burden on the taxpayers and support a failing system. In nearly 20 years of working for the state of Kansas in Corrections, it is unimaginable to think that we would be able to provide increasingly poor results and receive additional funding simultaneously. The opposite has resulted, as we are required to "do more with less," and little funding comes our way. No business can operate in this manner, no state should act in this manner, and this method is not sustainable for anyone. true

This result leads me to support SB 128. This bill will give my family a bit of respite from the heavy taxation that occurs to support the Kansas public school system in which we do not participate. Several other states in our great union provide a tax credit for those that choose to send their child to private schools. Study after study shows that students who attend accredited and non-accredited private schools perform significantly higher than their public-school counterparts. Because of the enormous number of favorable results seen for those attending accredited and non-accredited private schools, it is high time that Kansas starts supporting those systems. These private schools breed enormous success and benefit our society.

I am graduating with my MBA next month and have finance and accounting degrees. I am sure you are all equally or even more educated than myself. With this in mind, I propose a simple mathematical exercise for all of you. You can invest money into a simple saving account that will give you guaranteed annual returns of 5% with no risk, or you can invest in a simple saving account that will provide you with guaranteed yearly returns of 25% with no risk. Which one are you going to choose?

Obviously, the one that gives you a greater return on your investment is the best choice. Passing this bill out cleanly is the only choice to provide all Kansans a greater return on our investment.

Accredited and non-accredited private school students score significantly higher than their public-school counterparts in standardized achievement tests, have higher graduation rates, and have higher college GPAs. The Kansas public school system is a monopoly on education and is holding Kansans, hostage to the system. By passing this bill cleanly, you will give freedom and empowerment to thousands of Kansas families and children. By passing this bill cleanly, Kansas will reap the benefit of market competition which will improve our public school system.

You must vote to support SB 128 if:

1. You care about the future of Kansas students.
2. You care about the burdened taxpayer who pays into a system in which they do not participate and do not benefit.
3. You desire to support a system that provides positive results rather than negative results.
4. You want to be a good steward of Kansan's tax dollars.

I believe each of you feels this way, so the only possible option is to pass this bill out cleanly. Please consider my family and the many more that choose an alternative to the Kansas public school system.

Thank you,

Ryan Patton, Hutchinson