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House Bill 2218 K-12 Education Budget
Proponent
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I am the parent of three school age children in Wichita, KS and am writing to provide written testimony as a **proponent for HB 2218**.

My son Isaiah struggled in a regular classroom setting. No matter how much time, effort, and after school tutoring was done, his needs were not being met. Public schools simply do not have the funds, staff, and time to provide a child such as he with more than just the basic needs to get him by.

We had Isaiah evaluated by his primary care physician, a child psychologist, several other doctors, twice by the school district, and more before he was given a concrete diagnosis. This process was not only costly to our family, but also took valuable time from my son's education. His tuition places a significant amount of financial strain on our one income family.

Our family is blessed that Rolph Literacy Academy exists, and is able to provide Isaiah with the resources, time, and educators to meet his needs. His educators strategically came up with an education plan that not only guides Isaiah with his unique learning abilities, but also provides him with the confidence he needs to become a successful student. Isaiah's favorite subject is Art because he is able to express himself in some many ways, without feeling like there is something "wrong" with him.

An Educational Savings Account would greatly benefit our family as we not only pay tuition for Isaiah, but also our two other children, thus the burden is 3-fold. A scholarship in any amount would lessen the burden on not just our family, but many families who are also facing financial hardships. Every child, no matter their socioeconomic background deserves more than just the bare minimum, and unfortunately, many do not receive the education they deserve because they cannot financially afford the costs.

My name is Brenda Catalan and I am willing to testify via Webex or written.