

February 2, 2023

Testimony to the House K-12 Budget Committee

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Title: Parent

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Bill Number: HB2218, Sunflower Education Savings Accounts

Proponent, Opponent, or Neutral: Opponent

Oral or Written Only Testimony: Oral

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I write to express strong opposition to bill HB2218. I was born and raised in Kansas and benefitted greatly from well-funded schools which many viewed as some of the best in the nation. However, while living in another state, I watched as Sam Brownback and like-minded legislators targeted and decimated our public schools, which had long been a source of pride. Over the last few years, school funding has improved, and my family made a long-awaited move back. Our principal goal in moving back to Kansas was to reduce our cost of living and provide our kids a chance to attend well-funded, outstanding public schools.

As I understand it, similar bills to HB2218 have already diverted approximately \$300 million from public schools to private schools. I understand that HB2218 would withdraw even more, due to its broader scope. Similar bills in other states, as I understand it, have similarly harmed public schools and precipitated fraud and abuse with diverted funds.

I urge the committee to reject the legacy of Sam Brownback, reject this bill, and protect our public schools, which educate the vast majority of Kansas kids.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Tony Biagioli