

Email subject: **Testimonial for House Bill 2218**

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 child, Isaiah age 9, has previously struggled adapting to the traditional school setting due to his unique learning style. In order to ensure his future success in academics he requires the facilities and educators who are subject matter experts in his unique learning style. To say it bluntly, public schools within our region are not equipped to support the needs my son requires in order to be successful.

Isaiah endured a 2 year process being evaluated by a number of medical physicians to include doctors whose expertise lie in learning disabilities before receiving an official diagnosis. This process was grueling for Isaiah and at times mentally draining due to the nature of the exams he was subjected to. Before his diagnosis, we invested in after school tutoring in hopes Isaiah would make the necessary adjustment in his educational progression with no avail.

Now, Isaiah is prospering at Rolph Literacy Academy (RLA), a school dedicated to teaching children with similar learning needs just like Isaiah. RLA also provides the stress free environment, along with a classroom ratio that enables Isaiah to have more one-on-one time with his teacher. These changes have contributed to his overall demeanor when it comes to attending school. He is happy, he looks forward to school. He engages more with his classmates and teachers, something he struggled with previously.

In terms of having an Educational Savings Account. This would relieve some of the financial strains on my family, considering we have two additional children who also have financial needs. We are a family who believes education is paramount to the success of our children's future. The Educational Savings Account symbolizes an opportunity to secure Isaiah's success in his educational journey.

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