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Representing Self
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HB 2136 - Expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students scholarship program, increasing the amount of the tax credit for contributions made pursuant to such program and providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions.

Proponent
February 5, 2025

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee,

My name is Jachin Bonura and I'm currently a sophomore at Kansas State University. I'm writing in support of HB 2136.

Growing up with six siblings is not easy, especially for the parents. My parents are incredible and I have so much to be thankful for. My dad was able to support a family of nine with a teacher's salary alone and managed to send all seven of his kids to a private Christian school. This would not have been possible without the help of ACE Scholarships. I am super thankful for ACE and what they have done for my family.

Going to school in a private school was extremely beneficial to me and I learned some hard life lessons. When attending Cair Paravel Latin School, I was taught how to think, use logic, and become a student leader among many other things. Cair Paravel pushed me past my comfort zones and gave me the opportunity to grow in my faith and education. While at Cair Paravel I was involved in a lot including musicals, football, volleyball, choir, and houses. Not every high school encourages students to be involved in sports and fine arts at the same time, but Cair Paravel does.

My senior year I stepped into a lot of leadership positions including football captain, volleyball captain, student director for the madrigals, worship leader for Convocation, House Captain, and leading a Bible study. All of these opportunities my senior year gave me a lot of responsibility as well as challenges, but nothing I couldn't handle, and Cair Paravel supported me all the way. Cair Paravel is not an easy school by any means, and that's what makes it so great! It challenges you and makes you a better person.

I am now a student at K-State studying Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management and really enjoy it. At K-State I have been able to make and build a huge network of people and make all sorts of connections. These connections will help me in the future with building a business or even solving life problems. Cair Paravel built me up and prepared me so well to embrace the grind of college, that when college came around my first year was really easy and felt light. If I did not build the work ethic that I did from attending Cair Paravel I don't know that I would be at K-State.

If it wasn't for ACE Scholarships I never would have received the education I have and had the

opportunity to attend such an extraordinary school. With the money my family receives from ACE for schooling, my parents are able to send seven kids through an amazing educational school. I can't say thank you enough!

I ask the committee to think of families like mine when voting on HB 2136. A scholarship can be a life-changing opportunity for families across Kansas and every child no matter their socio-economic status should have access to an education that fits them. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jachin Bonura