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TITLE: Kansas Citizen and Parent
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BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only
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Dear Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

As a proud parent of children in the Olathe School District and as someone who understands the value of our public schools to an educated society and to the vitality of our communities, I am writing to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136.

It is not clear why we are funneling very LARGE tax credits to wealthy individuals who choose to donate to funding of private schools versus those who donate to other nonprofits. Expanding the already generous tax credit to 100% allows these wealthy taxpayers to completely avoid paying taxes in the state of Kansas.

I can't believe this needs to be stated but we should not be reducing state revenues by providing tax credits that funnel money to private schools that can pick and choose which children they want to serve, and are not held to the same accountability standards as our public schools. Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools that accept and educate all children and that provide oversight for our tax dollars. We should not be expanding this program that already funnels taxpayer dollars to private schools that lack oversight and are allowed to discriminate in admissions. This bill takes money that could be used to strengthen our public schools that serve all kids and gives it to families who have made a personal choice to receive a religious or other non-public education.

With all the talk of fiscal responsibility, granting even larger tax credits and breaks to wealthy Kansans does not make sense for the long-term viability of our state's budget and current surplus position. If representatives really want to direct some of the surplus back to their constituents, this targeted tax credit benefiting the wealthiest Kansans certainly does nothing for the majority of Kansans. In fact, rural taxpayers will end up subsidizing private school tuition for families in metro areas such as Johnson County, Wichita, and Topeka.

I urge you to vote no on bill HB 2136.

Amy Carter
Concerned Kansan
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