

**From:** [Joseph Madden](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:35:45 PM

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February 3, 2025

Joseph Madden  
8211 W. Reflection Ct.  
Wichita, KS 67205  
[joseph.a.madden@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.a.madden@gmail.com)

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Joseph Madden and my daughters Megan and Marie and sons Joseph and Jonathan attend Catholic school. The low-income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Joseph Madden  
Wichita, KS

February 3, 2025

Juli McClure  
11029 W Ryan Cir  
Wichita, KS 67205  
Juli.mcclure@gmail.com

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Juli McClure, and currently, my three sons attend St Francis of Assisi Catholic school and Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. The low-income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand. Every child regardless of their family's financial situation deserves to receive quality education and formation. It is also my hope that ensuring people (parents and their children) from all socio-economic situations are daily encouraged to exchange experience, education and ideas that we can lift our most financially challenged neighbors up through those interactions and their children's opportunities.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

*Juli McClure*

Wichita, KS

February 4, 2025

Bridget Mersmann  
2467 N. Vinegate Circle  
Wichita, KS  
[bridget.mersmann@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.mersmann@gmail.com)/ 316-993-2889

## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Bridget Mersmann and both my daughter and son, Gianna and Gerard, attend Magdalen Catholic school in Wichita thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

I grew up attending the Catholic Diocese of Wichita schools, K-12. After receiving my teaching degree, I came back to teach in the diocese, being fully aware I would not make as much money teaching in a Catholic school as I could elsewhere. I am passionate about our Catholic Schools, the values we are able to instill in our children with both teachers and parents united in the same mission. There was no question where I wanted my children to attend school, in fact, we moved back to Wichita from Iowa to insure they would be able to attend the Catholic Schools in Wichita. Without the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill, attendance would not be possible for our family as with many others.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so my children and others can have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

Bridget Mersmann  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [elizabeth.meyer14@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.meyer14@gmail.com)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:18:58 AM

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February 4, 2025

Elizabeth Meyer  
2411 N Diamond Ln  
Kingman, Kansas  
[Elizabeth.meyer14@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.meyer14@gmail.com)

## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Elizabeth Meyer and my children Ignatius, Gianna, Nicholas, Bosco, and Lily all attend St. Patrick Catholic school in Kingman. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children at St. Patrick Catholic School, in the Wichita Catholic Diocese, and other private schools throughout our state have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Meyer  
Kingman, Kansas

Martha Moreno  
Representing Self

[Marthamoreno6267@gmail.com](mailto:Marthamoreno6267@gmail.com)

(913) 938-9142

2008 North 6 Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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

Submitted in Spanish:

Chairwoman Estes y miembros del comité,

Con mucho placer, les dirijo esta carta para informar que la beca ACE Scholarship ha hecho un gran impacto en la educación de mis hijos. Les pedimos, por favor, que mantengan esta gran oportunidad de ayuda para el beneficio estudiantil de niños de bajos recursos y les agradecemos por tomarse el tiempo y la dedicación para seguir adelante con este proyecto.

La educación es la base para obtener un mejor futuro, y por eso les pido de la manera más atenta que continúen con esta ayuda que ha marcado la diferencia en nuestro hogar. Nuestra dirección está en la ciudad de Kansas City, Kansas (2008 North 6 Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101), y la escuela a la que asisten mis hijos está ubicada en Maurer Road, de nombre Midland Adventist Academy School.

Estoy escribiendo para pedirle a la legislatura que apoye el proyecto de ley **HB 2136**, que permitirá que más familias como la mía continúen beneficiándose de esta ayuda educativa tan importante.

Dios los bendiga y los guíe para seguir con el mismo ímpetu y energía, para que los niños, el futuro del mañana, mantengan este gran apoyo que ha sido de enorme beneficio en su educación. Muchísimas gracias a todo el gran equipo y al personal que hace posible esta causa. Que la bendición de nuestro Padre Celestial los acompañe a ustedes y a sus familias.

Les enviamos un abrazo caluroso y un saludo con todo respeto.

**Atentamente,**

Martha Moreno Enriquez

Madre de familia agradecida

.

English Translation:

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to inform you that the ACE Scholarship has had a significant impact on my children's education. We kindly ask that you continue this incredible opportunity for students from low-income families, and we sincerely appreciate the time and dedication you put into carrying this project forward.

Education is the foundation for a better future, which is why I respectfully ask you to continue this support that has made a difference in our home. Our address is in Kansas City, Kansas (2008 North 6 Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101), and my children attend Midland Adventist Academy School, located on Maurer Road.

I am writing to urge the legislature to support **HB 2136**, which will allow more families like mine to continue benefiting from this crucial educational assistance.

May God bless and guide you to continue with the same enthusiasm and energy so that children—the future of tomorrow—can maintain access to this great support, which has been incredibly beneficial to their education. Many thanks to the entire team and staff who make this cause possible. May our Heavenly Father's blessings be with you and your families.

We send you a warm embrace and our deepest respect.

**Sincerely,**  
Martha Moreno Enriquez  
A grateful mother

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Susan Estes  
201 SW 8th Ave  
Topeka, KS 66603

## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Jonathan Morgan, and my wife Jessica and I have 6 children who attend St. James Catholic School in Augusta, All Saints Catholic Middle School in Wichita, and Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School in Wichita. Our family could never afford to send all our children to the schools of our choice that align with our family and religious values without the assistance that the low income tax credit scholarship program provides to schools in Kansas.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Jonathan Morgan  
Augusta, KS

**From:** [Meagan Moyer](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Tax Credit Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:33:08 PM

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February 3, 2025

Meagan Moyer  
7485 170th Rd  
Chanute, KS  
(913) 908-6486

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Meagan Moyer and my daughter, Hadley, attends St. Patrick Catholic school in Chanute, KS. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Meagan Moyer  
Chanute, KS



February 4, 2025

Susan Estes  
300 SW 10th St.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
[susan.estes@house.ks.gov](mailto:susan.estes@house.ks.gov) / 785-296-7388

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Jesse Nguyen and my sons Liam and Lucas attend All Saints Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Jesse Nguyen  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [patricia ramirez](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#); [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Favor of HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:38:11 AM

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February 3, 2025

Patricia Ramirez Torres  
2712 E. Rivera St.  
Wichita, ks  
[Ramirezpatricia31@yahoo.com](mailto:Ramirezpatricia31@yahoo.com)

Thank you, Madam chair Estes and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Patricia Ramirez Torres my daughters Sofia, Jacqueline, Emily go to All Saints Catholic School, thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program. Some of the reason why my family choose to go to All Saints Catholic School they offer a variety of benefits including a strong academic focus, a faith-based community and a curriculum that emphasizes moral development.

Patricia Ramirez Torres  
Thank you for your time!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**Testimony in Support of HB 2136**  
**Presented by Dr. Lorenzo Rizzi- Parent and Catholic School Administrator**

**IN PERSON PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2136. AN ACT concerning education; relating to the tax credit for low-income student scholarship program; expanding eligibility therefor; eliminating the eligibility requirement that students shall have been previously enrolled in public school; increasing the tax credit for contributions made to such program; providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions; amending K.S.A. 72-4353 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-4352 and 72-4357 and repealing the existing sections.**

**TO: Madam Chair Rep. Estes and members of the House Education Committee**  
**FROM: Lorenzo Rizzi, Associate Superintendent, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas**  
**DATE: February 5, 2025**

**Dear Chair Estes and committee members,**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2136. As both a parent and a Catholic school administrator, I am deeply invested in ensuring that every child in Kansas has access to the best possible education, regardless of their financial circumstances. HB 2136 is a crucial step toward expanding educational opportunities and empowering families to make the best choices for their children's future.

This bill includes two critical improvements to the existing scholarship tax credit program:

1. **Increasing the Cap with the Escalator Clause** – Last year, \$8.2 million of the available \$10 million was used to provide scholarships for students in need. By implementing an escalator clause, we ensure that as demand grows, funding can keep pace with the increasing number of families seeking educational opportunities outside of their assigned public schools. This provision will provide more low- and middle-income families with the ability to choose a school that best serves their child's unique needs.
2. **Raising the Tax Credit from 75% to 100%** – Encouraging donations to scholarship-granting organizations is essential for the success of this program. By increasing the tax credit to 100%, Kansas will be more competitive with neighboring Missouri, where donors already receive a full tax credit. This adjustment will help attract more contributions, particularly from donors in the Kansas City area, where many families could benefit from these scholarships.

The mission of this legislation aligns perfectly with the mission of Catholic education and all quality schools: to provide every child with the best possible education. As a school administrator, I see firsthand how access to scholarships changes lives. It allows students to thrive in environments that nurture their academic, moral, and spiritual development. As a parent, I know how important it is to have the ability to choose a school that aligns with my values and best supports my child's growth.

HB 2136 is about fairness, opportunity, and putting the needs of students first. I urge you to support this bill so that more children in Kansas—especially those from low-income and working-class families—can receive the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the students and families of Kansas.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Dr. Lorenzo Rizzi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorenzo Rizzi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a stylized "R".

**Associate Superintendent**

**Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas**

**From:** [Amy Samples](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:16:40 AM

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February 3, 2025

Amy Samples  
1226 S Water  
Wichita, KS 67213

316-806-2738

#### WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Amy Samples and my daughter Zelma attends Bishop Carroll Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Amy Samples  
Wichita, KS

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Amy Samples | St. Joseph Catholic School | <https://stjosephwichita.com/>  
P 316-261-5860 | F 316-261-5804 | School Hours: M-F 7:30am-3:30pm  
139 S. Millwood Wichita, KS 67213

***This email is not monitored outside of regular school hours***

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[PowerSchool](#)  
[e~Funds School Fees Payment Portal](#)  
[VIRTUS Registration](#)  
[School Facebook Page](#)  
[Free or Reduced Meals Application](#)

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Stephanie Sanderson  
Representing Self  
Stephsanderson23@gmail.com  
Salina, KS

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

Dear Chairwoman Estes and a members of the committee,

My name is Stephanie Sanderson and I am asking you to support HB 2136. We have four children, ages 6-16. Because of the help we receive from ACE Scholarships, our children have been blessed to attend an excellent private school in our town. Our children have thrived under the education that we have been able to provide for them. Our school wants to be affordable for every student no matter what their income, and ACE Scholarships is a huge part of making that possible. We would love to see more families attend our school, and I know that an expanded tax credit program would greatly impact many families' ability to do so. I know of many people who do not even consider private school because of the cost. Many of these children would greatly benefit from the opportunity to attend a private school. Please expand the tax credit so that more and more families have the opportunity to provide the best education for their children. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sanderson

February 3, 2025

Kandace Skolaut

12407 W. Ridgepoint Ct.

Wichita, Kansas

kandaceskolaut@yahoo.com

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Kandace Skolaut and children Mary, Lucia, and Paul attend Bishop Carroll and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic schools. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Kandace Skolaut

Wichita, Kansas



**From:** [Mary Smith](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:36:41 AM

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February 3, 2025

Mary Smith  
1710 Dearborn St.  
Augusta, Kansas  
316-619-5907

## WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Mary Smith and my son Malachi Smith has attended St. James Catholic school. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Mary Smith  
Augusta, Kansas

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Mrs. Mary Smith

8th Grade American History

Have a great day!

**From:** [Donna Snook](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:58:03 AM

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February 3, 2025

Donna Snook  
676 S 119th St W  
Wichita, Kansas  
316-253-7100

## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Donna Snook and my children attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic school and Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

Donna Snook  
Wichita, Kansas

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sylvia Spicer](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Low Income Student Tax Credit Scholarship Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:55:14 AM

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☐ HB 2136 Testimony.docx

February 3, 2025

Sylvia Spicer  
802 S Highland Ave  
Chanute, KS 66720  
[sylviadspicer@gmail.com](mailto:sylviadspicer@gmail.com)  
(785)-383-1772

## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Sylvia Spicer and my daughters attend St. Patrick Catholic School in Chanute. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you,

Sylvia Spicer  
Chanute, Kansas

**From:** [Katy Struble](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Subject:** HB2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:36:13 PM

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February 4, 2025

Katy Struble  
300 E Stone Creek  
Derby, KS 67037  
[katystruble@hotmail.com](mailto:katystruble@hotmail.com)

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Katy Struble and my children attend St Mary Catholic School in Derby and Kapaun Mount Carmel High School in Wichita. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand. I want all parents who desire a strong faith-based education for their children to be able to have achieve that opportunity regardless of life circumstances.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Katy Struble  
Derby, KS

**From:** [Bridget Sublett](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:57:35 AM

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February 3, 2025

Bridget Sublett

10222 W Haskell Ct.

Wichita, Kansas

wsu22roks@yahoo.com

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee, for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the Low-Income Tax Credit Student Scholarship Bill.

My name is Bridget Sublett, and my four children all attend St. Joseph, a Catholic school in the Wichita Diocese. The Low-Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program has had a significant positive impact on our school and others within our diocese. It has provided opportunities for students who otherwise might not have access to quality education, helping to foster a diverse and inclusive learning environment. As we teach our children about social justice and the importance of equality, we believe that expanding this program is an essential step toward addressing the needs of all students in our state.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask you to support HB 2136 so that children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese, as well as other private schools, can have access to an education that best suits their needs and empowers them to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bridget Sublett

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

Thank you, chairwoman and committee. My name is Angela Swisher, and I am representing Most Pure Heart of Mary School, which is in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, as a parent.

I have worked in the public school system for the majority of my career, serving in multiple capacities. I have been able to see first hand what I want for my own children. Having been given the opportunity to attend Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School with the tax credit scholarship, it amazes me how much my children flourished in that setting. For my children, it has made such a difference being able to celebrate your faith alongside receiving your education. We have been blessed with phenomenal staff, alongside our administration. The tax credit scholarship program was vital in giving my children the opportunity to attend Catholic Schools. I look forward to all the possibilities that their future holds through their education. I ask at this time that you continue to make this opportunity possible by supporting HB 2136.

Angela Swisher

Topeka, KS

February 3, 2025

Tammy Toney  
3313 E Grand St  
Wichita, KS  
67218  
Tntoney9117@icloud.com

WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Tammy Toney and my daughters (Sophia and Olivia) attend All Saints Catholic School that is located within the Wichita, KS diocese.

The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped many children within our diocese and it brings me joy to see all of these children enjoying a wonderful Catholic education.

Our school thrives on the diversity of our children, but without this tax credit program supporting our low-income families, I am sad to say many children would not be successfully enrolled in our schools. I can acknowledge from personal experience, that without this program, I would not have two thriving daughters at All Saints because of the financial strain I would face without it. I stay hopeful this program will continue to thrive and provide many children the opportunity to enjoy a well-rounded Catholic education.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Tammy Toney  
Wichita, KS



February 3, 2025

Liliana Villegas  
2536 N Bluestone St  
Andover KS 67002  
[lvillegas@myfaminsurance.com](mailto:lvillegas@myfaminsurance.com) 316-559-8882

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Liliana Villegas, and my daughters Eugenia and Liliana attend Magdalen Catholic school thanks to the low income tax credit scholarship program.

Here is our story:

Both of our girls have attended Magdalen Catholic school since preschool, and it has been a true blessing that they have received the best quality academic education along with the strong moral values that a Catholic school can offer. The teachers are so kind and inclusive, always concerned about both the academic and spiritual growth of our girls and very attentive to a safe and happy environment for all the children.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so my child and others can have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Liliana Villegas  
Andover, KS

Proponent of House Bill #2136  
House Education Committee  
Date of Hearing: 2/5/2025  
Dr. John Walker  
Superintendent of Central Christian School  
Submitted: February 4, 2025

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Madam Chair and members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Dr. John Walker, and I serve as the Superintendent at Central Christian School in Hutchinson, KS. I also have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Kansas Representative for all Kansas Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) accredited schools. I am also blessed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Association for Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS).

I respectfully offer testimony in support of HB 2136, expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low-income students scholarship program, increasing the amount of the tax credit for contributors made pursuant to such program and providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions.

Very briefly, many of our students are blessed by the programs available to them through opportunities as this bill allows. Many students would not be attending our school today, because of their income status. Programs like this allow for more diverse schools, socio-economically, and provides opportunities for more children and families.

Please expand the program that is in place, knowing that over 80 schools currently use this program to provide an excellent educational experience for their students. Please consider how this program will allow more options to more students, to be taught in the environment that parents desire. The point is educational choice – and providing parents more opportunities and freedom of choice.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John Walker  
Superintendent  
Central Christian School

**From:** [Jenon Watts](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** HB2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:15:36 AM

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February 4, 2025

Jenon Watts  
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## **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HB 2136**

Thank you, Chairwoman Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

I am Jenon Watts, and my children, Abel Watts and Azaria Watts, attend St. Joseph Catholic School. The low-income tax credit scholarship program has provided substantial support to our school and others within our diocese. We place great value on maintaining a diverse student population, as it aligns with our teachings on social justice. Therefore, we believe it is imperative for our state to expand this program.

In conclusion, I respectfully request your support for HB 2136, which would provide children within the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools with access to an education that best meets their needs.

Thank you,  
Jenon Watts  
Wichita, KS

**From:** [Christy Wirtz](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB 2136  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:48:23 AM

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February 3, 2025

Christine Wirtz

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Thank you, Madam Chair Estes, and members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2136, the low-income tax credit student scholarship bill.

My name is Christine Wirtz and my 5 children (Ben, Kate, Andrew, Danny and Lucy) attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic school AND my son TJ attends Bishop Carroll Catholic School. The low income tax credit scholarship program has significantly helped our school and the other schools in our diocese. We highly value having a diverse population in our schools and as we teach our children about social justice, we feel this is a topic at hand that our state must expand.

In conclusion, please support HB 2136 so the children in the Wichita Catholic Diocese and other private schools have the opportunity for an education that best suits their needs.

Thank you.

Christine Wirtz

Wichita, KS



Hello, Chairwoman Estes and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jordan Zakery. I am speaking on behalf of ExcelinEd in Action, a national, bipartisan education policy think tank founded by Governor Jeb Bush. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of HB 2136

Currently, Kansas offers the Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program, an educational choice program, that serves more than 1300 students statewide.

This program has allowed students, regardless of their means, to access an educational environment of their choice.

HB 2136 offers the following key improvements to the program:

- Removes the programs prior public enrollment provision, allowing more students to timely exercise choice and attend a school that best meets their needs.
- An increase in the credit value from 70 percent to 100 percent over multiple to encourage donations and support the neediest students.
- Eligibility is extended to foster kids, military kids, and children of first responders.

Together these improvements equate to more students from at-need populations gaining additional access to a school of their choice. These improvements mean strengthening a program that supports students and parents.

In fact, a late [2022 survey released by the Kansas Policy Institute and EdChoice](#), found that nearly 4 in 5 parents with students participating in the program were satisfied with their student's experience in the program.

Additionally, in the same report, only 7 percent of participants responded they would be able to have their child attend their current private school if not for the program. It is clear this program has empowered many families with the needed resources and financial means to put their children in a school that works best for their individual needs.

HB 2136 is a keep-doing-what-you're-doing bill. It supports a program that empowers students and families with educational options. It tells a parent that the legislature supports them in finding a school that works best for their kid.

This legislation takes a sensible approach to supporting the responsible growth of a program that serves the neediest Kansas students. For these reasons, ExcelinEd in Action urges your support of HB 2136.

Best,  
Jordan Zakery  
Legislative Director-Midwest  
ExcelinEd in Action