

NAME: Amy Moore

TITLE: parent

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BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written only testimony

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2025

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136.

I strongly oppose HB 2136. Eighteen years ago, my family specifically chose to move to Kansas for its excellent public schools. We have three children – one who graduated in 2023, another graduating in 2025, and our youngest in 2029. Our experience with Kansas public schools has been outstanding, particularly regarding special education services that our child received – services unavailable at local private schools. In fact, we regularly saw private school students coming to our public elementary school to access these essential services.

Public funds must remain in public schools for one fundamental reason: public schools serve ALL Kansas children. While private schools selectively choose their students, public schools welcome everyone. Most private institutions lack the resources and infrastructure to support students with special needs or English language learners. Furthermore, private schools operate without the rigorous oversight and accountability measures that ensure taxpayer dollars are properly invested in quality education.

In conclusion, public money should stay in public schools. Voucher programs effectively become subsidies for wealthy families while lacking proper oversight and accountability. There is no need for expansion when there are still hundreds of thousands of students eligible under the current guidelines who are not utilizing scholarships.

Please vote no on bill HB 2136

Amy Moore

Parent in the Shawnee Mission School District

Prairie Village