

## Testimony to the House Committee on Education

**NAME:** Danielle George

**TITLE:** Parent in USD 230

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** dvoorhees24@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** Bill HB 2136

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written only testimony

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Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

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

I am a parent in USD 230 with a 1st grader in public school. We moved to our area specifically for the school and the community within the school district because we felt it would be the best fit for our child. Private schools can choose to admit only the best and brightest students, leaving other children behind. Expanding the Tax Credit Scholarship program to private school students leaves fewer spots for the at-risk students the program was intended to help, which would include my child who utilizes several programs not offered through private education. 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 tax payer dollars to private schools that lack oversight and are allowed to discriminate in admissions. Instead of providing tax credits to fund private schools, the legislature should be using those tax dollars to fully fund special education. Rural students and communities, which includes the vast majority of Kansas students, are harmed as public school resources are drained and students in rural areas lack little to no private options.

In closing I urge you to vote no on bill HB 2136 to keep education equitable for all Kansas children.

Danielle George

Spring Hill KS