

**NAME:** Glenna Walker  
**TITLE:** Kansas Tax Payer  
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**BILL NUMBER:** Bill HB 2136  
**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent  
**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** written only  
**DATE OF HEARING:** February 5, 2025

Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136. Once again we see a bill to take money from public schools and other general fund items and direct it to private institutions. On the surface this bill appears to offer some children the opportunity to attend private schools, where it is assumed they will receive a better quality education. However, in reality this bill is a tax avoidance scheme beneficial to corporations and wealthy individuals. By labeling donations as a tax credit instead of a tax donation, it diverts money from the general fund and public schools at a much higher rate than a donations given to other causes.

In 2023, the last year data was available, only 1,340 of the 230,000 students eligible under the current Tax Credit Scholarship Voucher program participated. We do not know why this is since there is no data or accountability within the program. HB 2136 would expand eligible student to include children of military members and police and fire officers. Personally, I am a veteran of the United States Army and served as a Dodge City Police Officer for ten years. Despite my personal experience I can find no logical reason why children of one career group should receive benefits that another person's children are not eligible for.

Also, I would point out that in my area there is only one accredited private school, which is a Catholic school so not available to non-Catholics. In sixty Kansas counties, there are no accredited private schools. Obviously rural areas would be losing tax dollars to the benefit of more urbanized areas.

Please vote no on HB 2136 and provide confirmation my testimony was received and added to relevant conferee list.

Glenna Walker  
Dodge City, KS