

Testimony to the House and Senate Committees on Education

From: Gretchen Eick, PhD

Oppose expanding the Tax Credit Scholarship Program; support public schools

eickgc@gmail.com

HB 2136/SB 87

Opponent

Written

HB 2136/SB 87 are tax avoidance mechanisms for the superrich. Those donating up to half a million dollars to the Tax Credit Scholarship program receive a tax credit of 75% of their donation. For the largest donations, our state's coffers are reduced by \$375,000. These bills expand that to 100% tax credit for donors, i.e., for a \$500,000 donation, the donor can take \$500,000 off what they owe in taxes—a dollar for dollar benefit to rich donors and an incentive to them to undermine public schools.

In Kansas our private schools educate a small fraction of our population. This Tax Credit Scholarship in 2023 went to only 1,340 students in Kansas despite the fact that more than a quarter of a million Kansas students were eligible for it. **Expansion is clearly not needed.** This program, particularly with this bill's expansion, hurts Kansas kids by incentivizing a switch to public schools. Public schools are the lifeblood of democracy. They need full government support and not government undermining them.

Please do not continue augmenting the incomes of the 1% and removing resources that should go to the .0058%.

Vote down these bills, please.

Dr. Gretchen Eick, PhD

lifelong educator in public schools,

at Friends University, and

at Wichita State University

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1536 N Park Place

Wichita, KS 67203

eickgc@gmail.com