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BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only
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Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your service on this committee working to ensure all Kansas kids have access to a great education. I am writing to voice my opposition to bill number HB 2136.

I am currently a parent of two children who attend school in the Hutchinson School District and receive Special Education services for Gifted. Public schools are vital to our communities:

- They help us have an educated society which ensures a qualified workforce.
- They provide education for all.
- They provide a space for kids to encounter and experience people from different cultures, different socio-economic backgrounds, different races, and different abilities. I believe this leads to a more welcoming and compassionate society.

This bill takes money that could be used to strengthen our public schools that serve all kids and gives it to families who have made a private choice to receive a religious or other non-public education, many who can easily afford that choice. In the rural parts of our state, including Hutchinson, there are no private school choices outside of religious schools. Instead of providing tax credits to Kansans choosing not to send their kids to public school, the legislature should be using those tax dollars to fully fund special education that is currently underfunded by \$173 million.

I implore you to protect public school and vote no on HB 2136.

Jeanne Koontz
Hutchinson