

HB 2136 Opposition Testimony

Senate Education Committee

February 3, 2025

Jessica Bright, Jessica.lauran28@gmail.com

Parent in Olathe School District - USD 233

Chair Estes & members of the committee,

Thank you for your service and taking the time to read the public's testimony. I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2136.

As a lifelong Kansan, I chose to stay in Kansas to raise my own family in large part due to our outstanding public schools.

I had the privilege to receive an excellent education through the Blue Valley School District and am now watching my seven-year-old thrive in the Olathe School District. Everyone who lives in the Kansas City metro area knows that Kansas schools are far and away the best in the area. They are the reason our property values are consistently higher and homes in the area are more sought after.

HB 2136 jeopardizes this stellar reputation. By diverting general fund dollars to private schools, we would be robbing not only our public schools, which 90% of Kansas children attend, but also our roads and highways (which are again, a benchmark of excellence in the area).

We have the benefit of hindsight with this bill. Multiple states have implemented similar bills and have seen not only their public education funding suffer, but they have also not reported growth in private education enrollment. This means these tax refunds are not being used to enroll additional children in private schools, they are simply providing a tax break for people wealthy enough to already be enrolled in these schools.

I am asking you to vote no on bill HB 2136 so that Kansas schools so that Kansas schools continue to excel.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Jessica Bright

Olathe