

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

NAME: Judi Barkema

TITLE: Kansas Citizen and Taxpayer

EMAIL ADDRESS: jabarkema@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: Bill HB 2136

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only Testimony

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2025

Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

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

As a parent of two Shawnee Mission West High School graduates, I know the value public schools provide. Public schools are a key resource for success as individuals and as a state.

Public tax dollars belong with public schools

Tax dollars should be used to strengthen public schools that serve everyone instead of giving tax dollars to families making a private school choice.

Private schools are not available to all, private schools get to choose who to accept

Funneling our tax dollars to private schools that pick and choose which children to serve is a poor use of funds. Tax credits proposed in this bill do not provide real choice.

Vouchers are welfare for the wealthy

The proposed tax credits will give refunds to families and these families will not contribute funding towards public efforts (including roads) that we all use. If I don't use the library, can I get tax credits to pay for books I buy?

No oversight or accountability

Tax dollars should not go to private schools and home schools that have no oversight. With no oversight, what standard is there for a quality education?

Impact on rural areas

The proposed tax credits will drain public school resources across the state, including rural areas that have little or no private school options. This means rural areas will subsidize private school tuition for metro areas.

Please vote NO on HB 2136.

Judi Barkema

Kansas Citizen and Taxpayer

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