

**From:** [Phoebe Rinkel](#)  
**To:** [House Education](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Estes](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony HB 2136  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 12:23:22 PM

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## Testimony to the House Committee on Education

**NAME:** Phoebe Rinkel

**TITLE:** Kansas Parent, Grandparent, Retired Special Educator

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** phoeberinkel@gmail.com

**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,

As a retired Kansas special educator, parent, and grandparent, I am writing to voice strong opposition to bill number HB 2136. This bill would continue the legislative assault on tax dollars for public schools in Kansas by expanding the existing voucher program beyond its original intent, to help low-income (at risk) students who attend under-performing public schools. This bill would only increase the harm to rural students, families, and communities in areas where there are no private school options. This bill would extend vouchers to families with incomes well above the median for Kansas families. It would further erode the tax base funding our public schools, roads and bridges, and more by increasing the donor tax credit to 100%.

Instead of further reducing the tax base for funding public schools, this committee needs to address the critical need for fully funding special education services at the level mandated by law. At the very least, this bill should include accountability to ensure that Kansas children who receive vouchers also receive a quality education, including children with disabilities.

Please reject this bill and any further attempt to expand private school vouchers and tax credits that threaten the quality of our public schools in Kansas.

Phoebe Rinkel, M.S.

Shawnee, Kansas

