

NAME: Rebecca Hoge

TITLE: Kansas citizen and parent of 2 children in public school

EMAIL ADDRESS: bechoge@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 STRONG opposition to bill number HB 2136. I am a graduate of the Shawnee Mission School District, taught for 10 years in the SMSD, and now have two children attending school in the Olathe School District. I am also a substitute for the Olathe School District. Public education is something I am passionate about. Public education is the right of every American child and public tax dollars belong in public schools. Public schools accept and educate ALL students. This bill takes money that could be used to strengthen our public schools that serve all kids in our communities and gives it to families who have made a personal choice to receive a religious education or other private education. Tax credits should not be given to fund private schools, those schools should be funded by their members' tuition fees alone. The legislature should be using those tax dollars to fully fund special education. Many private schools do not accept, or can not provide, proper education for special needs students, and therefore should NOT receive public education dollars. Our public schools need smaller class sizes, they need to retain qualified teachers for elementary, middle and high school levels. Our public schools need education materials to meet the needs of ALL students. If we take away funding for public schools though larger tax credits for private schools, Kansas schools and Kansas children will suffer the consequences. Let the wealthy fund their own education if they so choose, but do NOT take away funds from the working class, lower income and at-risk children. My family is privileged and could afford a private education, but I will always choose and fight for public education. It is a basic right of the children in America. If our educational systems fail due to lack of funding, then we will have more than "first world" problems.

You must oppose and vote a resounding NO to HB 2136, the children of Kansas need you.

Rebecca Hoge

Parent, educator, and public school advocate

Lenexa, KS