

NAME: Sara Askew
TITLE: Parent of public school children
EMAIL ADDRESS: sarabrooke@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,

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

I attended private schools K-12, and started my kids at private school as well. I have three children. Two of them have attended both private and public school. My youngest has only attended public school. The private school my children attended prior to switching to Maize USD 266 could not meet their academic needs, nor were they required to by law. Public education has absolutely been the answer for my kids. The current scholarship program still has room for eligible students to take advantage of it; it does not need expanded at this time. And enlarging the pool of eligible students will take away spots from the families who need the scholarships the most. At a time when special education is not fully funded, the legislature's focus should be on fully funding public education, not diverting funds to pay for private schools. Good public schools increase the value of our properties. If our public schools suffer, our home values will suffer as well. And no Kansans want that. Funding those schools will raise all Kansans, by improving our communities and helping the majority of students and families that attend them.

In closing I ask you to vote no on bill HB 2136.

Thank you,
Sara Askew
Wichita