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**BILL NUMBER:** Bill HB 2136

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 5, 2025

**Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,**

I am writing to express my deep opposition to HB 2136.

With 32 years of experience as a Kansas public school teacher, counselor, and adjunct professor, I have dedicated my life to serving students and families across our state. I have seen firsthand the power of a strong public education system—how it opens doors, lifts communities, and gives every child, regardless of background or income, a chance to succeed. Public education is the foundation of our state's future, and our children deserve our full investment, free from political division.

I do not support vouchers or Tax Credit Scholarships because they siphon public tax dollars away from public schools—schools that welcome and educate every child. These programs lack oversight and accountability, and they disproportionately benefit a select few at the expense of the broader student population. Expanding the Tax Credit Scholarship program will further drain critical resources from our public schools, while also allowing donors to avoid contributing their fair share of taxes to Kansas. This bill redirects money that could strengthen our public schools—schools that serve all children—into private institutions that can pick and choose their students.

As an educator, I have personally witnessed families enroll their children in private schools, only to return to public schools within weeks when they realize that private institutions are not always equipped to meet their needs. Unlike public schools, private schools do not have to follow the same accountability and transparency standards. Public schools are held to rigorous state regulations, ensuring that students receive a quality education and that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. Private schools, however, operate by different rules, and the public has no way of knowing whether their tax dollars are truly benefiting Kansas children.

This bill also fails to consider our rural communities. Having taught in Western Kansas, I know firsthand that rural taxpayers will ultimately be subsidizing private school tuition for families in metro areas like Johnson County, Wichita, and Topeka. Instead of investing in education systems that benefit all Kansas children, this bill diverts funding toward private choices—choices that should not come at the cost of our public schools and the students they serve.

I urge you to stand with Kansas families and public schools. Please vote NO on HB 2136.

**Sherry Giebler, EdS, LPC**

Olathe, KS

