

Taryn Myers

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Bill HB 2136

Opponent

Written Testimony

February 5, 2025

Chair Estes & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2136. As a parent of two children in USD 266, Maize, Kansas—one in 7th grade and the other in 10th—I have seen firsthand both the strengths and struggles of our public schools. In addition to my role as a parent, I have worked as an elementary school paraprofessional and currently serve as a substitute teacher across the district. My experience within the public school system has been overwhelmingly positive, but it has also opened my eyes to the many challenges our schools face.

Public schools already operate on limited resources, doing their best with what little they have. HB 2136 would only make this situation worse, further draining funding from schools that are already struggling. As the President of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), with eight years at the elementary level and four years—and counting—at the middle school level, I have witnessed firsthand how schools rely on community support to fill critical gaps. Unfortunately, not all schools have the benefit of a strong PTO to supplement their needs.

Special education departments, in particular, are already stretched thin. I have personally seen teachers and staff spend their own money on essential resources because state funding falls short. Redirecting public tax dollars to private schools—institutions that lack oversight and can deny admission for various reasons—will only exacerbate these inequities.

This bill disproportionately harms low-income families and rural communities. It primarily benefits the wealthy while placing an even greater burden on those already struggling. Reading through the tax credits outlined in this bill is heartbreaking because I see firsthand the students it will leave behind. HB 2136 does not take care of Kansas kids.

I urge you to reconsider the long-term consequences this bill will have on our public schools and the families who depend on them. Please vote no to bill HB 2136. Thank you for your time and for the work you do for our state.

Sincerely,

Taryn Myers

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