

ORAL PROPONENT testimony for SB 87- Expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students scholarship program, increasing the amount of the tax credit for contributions made pursuant to such program and providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions.

NAME: Katherine Jimenez

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TO: Chairwomen Representative Estes and members of the House Education Committee

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Katherine Jimenez, and I am a junior at Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School in Wichita, Kansas. I first started at Colvin Elementary in Wichita at the age of 4. Colvin was a diverse and welcoming school. However, before my fifth-grade year, I transitioned into the catholic diocese, influenced by my parish at St Margaret Mary.

The school I entered was St. Margaret Mary, which is also my parish. Here, I found a sense of community that pushed me forward. The teachers here cared about my growth, both academically and spiritually. The close community made me feel supported, and the friendships I built there are ones I still cherish today.

After graduating from 8th grade at St. Margaret Mary, I went to Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, where I've continued to grow. Kapaun has been more than just a school—it has been a guide, shaping me into who I am today. My teachers have challenged me to push my limits, helping me excel academically while strengthening my faith. The counselors at Kapaun have also played a role in my future planning, connecting me to resources like the Saint Gianna Program, which has opened my eyes to career opportunities in healthcare and beyond.

But what stands out most about Kapaun is its community. The students here are driven and supportive, and they inspire me to be better every day. I'm surrounded by friends who push themselves and encourage me to do the same. That motivation has given me the confidence to take on challenges, set high goals, and believe in my ability to achieve them.

As I look ahead, I feel prepared for my future. The education, values, and support I have received from Kapaun Mt. Carmel have given me the tools I need to succeed. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to share my journey with you.