

House Education Committee

Proponent of SB 87 with Amendments

By Mary Meininger, Director of Concerned Women for America of Kansas

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes and Education Committee Members, for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 87. CWA of Kansas supports this scholarship program for those families who need some financial help for their students to learn in a school that best meets their needs.

We agree with others who believe this would be an appropriate time to move the administration of this program to the Treasurer's office where other education programs are administered. At the same time as this new start for the program, it would be good to have a more positive name for the program, Kansas K-12 Students Scholarship Program. Please amend SB 87 to make these changes.

CWA wishes the program to expand to support all families who wish to be in the program, not just families in poverty, in active-duty military, emergency medical service providers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and foster children. While the program should help all these families, what about the other children suffering in schools where their learning is lacking? What are their family's personal hardships? This program should not be known as discriminatory, and with the addition of special groups of parents, the program is no longer a low-income program.

Why not let the Scholarship Granting Organizations decide the amount of the scholarship for each family? If a student lives in a district where the proficiency scores are low, that student is at risk of not being prepared for his future challenges and he should be allowed into the program.

I would like to emphasize that this is not a voucher program. The funds for this program come from individuals who have made the decision to give and help families provide the education their children need.

Please pass out of Education Committee SB 87 with the necessary amendments.

Concerned Women for America of Kansas appreciates your work for the children of Kansas and Kansas families. Thank you so very much for your time.

Mary Meininger

CWA of Kansas, Director

Isaiah 33:6 "He will be the sure (steady) foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure."

