

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: Dr. Delia Shropshire

DATE: March 10, 2025

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

I am the President of Holy Savior Catholic Academy. Our school has a free/reduced rate of 86%. We serve some of the neediest families in our community thanks to the Tax Scholarship program in the state of Kansas.

Our lowest income student who have enrolled in our school are doing so very well. Often times it is our job to catch them up on their learning, no matter what year they join our school. Our 1.3 years growth model prove that we are succeeding with the enrollment of these children. Every child that becomes a successful contributing member of society saves the state millions of dollars. We had a student who entered our school through this wonderful opportunity of School Choice in Kindergarten from a low income family. He is an African American male who has academic and social –emotional challenges. The stressors of the family were not only difficult for him but also he did not have the tools to positively express himself. Initially it appeared to be a behavior or deficiency issue. However, in our classroom with a 12:1 ratio and with many adults positively rallying around him, especially our School Resource Teacher who we have been able to add to our team due to tax credit funding, he now receives the support and help he needs. The family also receives support from our Social Worker. This student is now in the 6th grade in middle school.

Imagine how many more students we can help if the law is expanded to families who qualify for reduced lunches. There are many reduced lunch eligible families each year who inquired to enroll but could not afford tuition. These families would be the beneficiaries of this bill. Imagine how much more successful schools can be when we share the enormous tasks of educating today's youth.

Please understand that our school is not an "elite" school that comes to mind when people hear the word "private school". It is absolutely far from that. Our students' academic growth, overall development and their well-being prove that the Tax Scholarship program in the State of Kansas is working and working very well.

Thank you kindly! May God bless all of your work.