

Proponent Testimony for HB 2468

TO: Madam Chair Representative Estes

FROM:

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RE: Oral Proponent for HB 2468:

Opt In for the Federal tax credit scholarship program; Expand the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program.

DATE: January 21, 2026

Thank you, Madam Chair Estes and members of the House Education Committee, for allowing me to testify in favor of HB 2468, the bill addressing the opting in to the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program for public and private school students and expanding the Kansas low-income tax credit scholarship program.

My name is Vincent Anch. I am the Executive Director for the Catholic Education Foundation based in Kansas City, KS. On behalf of the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), and the 42 schools we serve in Northeast Kansas, I am writing in support of HB 2468.

The Federal Education Choice for Children ACT (ECCA) allows Kansas citizens to donate to a qualified SGO to fund scholarships for public and private school students. In return, Kansas donors receive 100% tax credits for their Federal taxes. The scholarships cover tuition, books, academic tutors, computers, school supplies and other education oriented items. There is no cost whatsoever for the state for this program. We wholeheartedly support this program which will offer Kansas students opportunities to improve their learning and augment their normal education. What parent wouldn't want a scholarship to cover tutoring or learning tools to enhance their children's academic growth. The only thing that Kansas students need to take advantage of this invaluable opportunity is to have the governor, or state leaders, opt in to this program. That's what this bill will do if passed. This will lead to hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars of free support for improving learning throughout the entire state.

Please support this bill so that Kansas opts in just like its bordering states (Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado) have. It would be a shame for Kansas if its residents sent their donations to SGOs in other states (which is allowed). This is exactly why Colorado, is opting in. The governor recently stated that he doesn't want to see millions of dollars leaving his state.

The Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program is a powerful tool that supports thousands of children from low-income households with scholarships so their families can have a choice in schools their children can attend. These scholarships offer our youth a high quality, private education that they otherwise could not afford or access. 95% of the Catholic Education Foundation's tax credit scholarships serve families and schools in the poorest communities in Northeast Kansas.

CEF represents 42 schools in 22 counties covering rural, suburban and urban communities in Northeast Kansas. Last year, CEF provided approximately \$2.6 million in scholarships to families that qualify for federal poverty assistance like the free and reduced lunch program. Over 93% of the students receiving scholarships are ethnic minorities. All are Kansas residents. Every family that receives a tax credit scholarship fully pays all of their state and local taxes. This is not a voucher program.

100% of CEF scholarship students graduated last year or successfully advanced to a higher grade. Since the tax credit scholarship program began over 95% of student scholarship recipients have moved on to attend college or advanced technical training programs. These are statistics that are much higher than peer public schools located near CEF schools. This helps Kansas develop a well-educated workforce that strengthens the Kansas economy.

The SGOs in Kansas collectively reached the \$10 million tax credit limit in 2025. Unfortunately, because of this low cap amount Kansas SGOs had to turn away several donations totaling approximately \$1 million. This results in not being able to offer over 300 scholarships to high-risk students.

We are strongly requesting that the state raises the number of tax credits available each year to \$20 million. The current limit makes the Kansas program one of the smallest if not the smallest programs in the country.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.