

Debbie Herrman
8715 Dunraven St.
Lenexa, KS 66227
dherrman@ymail.com

HB 2468 Low Income Family Assistance Scholarship Act

Proponent – Written Testimony

January 21, 2026

Written PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2468. Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee, I am writing in favor of HB 2468, the bill raising the limit on the low income students scholarship program and electing to participate in the federal tax credit program.

I am writing as a concerned constituent from Lenexa, Kansas that would like to see more educational opportunities for students who have historically faced barriers to choice, particularly working families and students with special needs. The federal tax credit is one of those opportunities and if Kansas chooses not to opt in we will be sending our federal tax dollars to neighboring states that have already indicated they intend to or will opt in. Kansans will possibly fund scholarships for students in Missouri, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska instead of helping kids right here in our own state and that would be unfortunate. This program provides the opportunity for Kansas students- regardless of their enrollment location- public, private, religious - to receive scholarships for a wide range of education expenses including tuition, tutoring, dual-enrollment courses and educational therapies such as occupational, physical, behavioral or speech-language therapy.

In addition, you have the opportunity to expand an existing tax credit program that helps many Kansas students and families choose the educational setting that best meets their needs— whether that is a private or religious school. Families make these choices for many reasons: increased safety, a close-knit community, smaller class sizes, the ability to escape bullying, or other individualized needs. However, families should not be limited in making these decisions simply because of their financial means.

Research indicates that humans make nearly 35,000 decisions each day, yet our current system restricts tax-paying citizens from deciding where their children attend school unless they can afford to do so. I strongly believe in the importance of strong public schools, but I also believe we need a range of educational options that reflect the diverse needs of students and families. When families can choose an environment that aligns with their values and supports their children's learning, students are better positioned to reach their academic potential and communities are better positioned to thrive.

The changes proposed in HB 2468 would allow more students and families to make educational choices that are right for them. Ultimately, this flexibility helps students reach their full potential and strengthens our communities as a whole.

In closing, I ask that you please support HB 2468.