



Brittany Jones

Written Only Testimony in Support of H.B. 2468

House Education

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Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the President of Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice believes Kansas should be a place where life is cherished, religious freedom flourishes, and families thrive. A core part of helping families thrive is ensuring they have the freedom to choose how and where their children are educated. It is for these reasons that we urge your support of H.B. 2468.

H.B. 2468 expands educational flexibility for Kansas families at a time when parents need every available tool to place their children in learning environments that meet their unique needs. The bill strengthens two key programs that do exactly that: the low-income tax credit scholarship program and opting the state into the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA).

The low-income tax credit scholarship program has operated in Kansas for more than a decade, providing students with access to quality educational opportunities they otherwise would not have. More than 17 states have similar programs in statute. This year, Kansas reached the program's \$10 million cap—demonstrating both the demand for and the success of this initiative. Countless children across our state have benefited from these scholarships, and expanding this program ensures more families can access the options they need.

The ECCA is a federal initiative that allows individuals to claim a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit for donating to approved Scholarship Granting Organizations. Individuals can claim a tax credit up to \$1700 per year. These contributions directly fund scholarships for students who meet the program's requirements, increasing the number of families who can choose the educational setting that best supports their child.

What makes the ECCA especially valuable is that it leverages private dollars to meet needs. Rather than creating a new government program or expanding bureaucracy, it mobilizes community generosity to help students access schools that align with their learning needs, values, and aspirations. It also creates a stable, predictable funding stream for scholarship organizations, allowing them to plan ahead, serve more families, and respond quickly to changing educational demands. For Kansas families—the ECCA represents a practical, cost-effective way to open doors that would otherwise remain closed.

Educational freedom rests on a simple principle: parents should be able to send their children to the school where they will thrive. This is a child-centered, family-centered model. It is not about elevating one type of schooling over another; it is about empowering families to make the best decision for their children.

Parents are best positioned to know and raise their children, and educational institutions should serve as partners in that responsibility. Protecting the fundamental

relationship between parent and child is essential to the stability and flourishing of our communities. Both programs strengthened by H.B. 2468 offer straightforward, effective ways to support families in that role. For these reasons, I ask that you vote H.B. 2468 out favorably.

Thank you!