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HB 2468 Low Income Family Assistance Scholarship Act  
Proponent – Written  
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Thank you, chairwoman and committee. My name is Matthew Vettel, and I represent Support for Catholic Schools, Inc, a Scholarship Granting Organization based in Wichita, Kansas.

Support for Catholic Schools offers scholarships to 1,212 students who attend Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wichita. The majority of students receiving our scholarships reside in urban or rural communities throughout southeastern Kansas.

These children's families normally cannot afford the cost of private school and we are extremely grateful for the state of Kansas offering the current 75% tax credit for donations to Support for Catholic Schools and other Scholarship Granting Organizations!

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wichita have a long history of welcoming students whose families cannot afford private school tuition. For the 2024-2025 school year, more than 26% of students in diocesan schools qualified for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

Throughout the country, private schools are closing. Our urban and rural communities are hit the hardest because these communities have unique financial challenges.

That said, there are private donors who are willing to support these students and their families so these students have access to educational choice.

The Kansas tax credit amplifies generosity of private donor dollars to support students whose family desires this option for their child's education, but have a difficult time covering the cost of education!

The bill you are considering today has two important features that I encourage you to enact.

First, thank you for considering an increase of the credit limit on Kansas tax credits for this program from \$10.0M to \$20.0M with an escalation clause.

The state of Kansas exhausted the \$10.0M in tax credits associated with this program on Friday, December 19 around 12:30pm. Following credits being fully exhausted, Support for Catholic Schools

was contacted by donors willing to contribute over \$600,000 to scholarships but chose not to due to the lack of Kansas tax credit.

I know Support for Catholic Schools was not alone and that other Scholarship Granting Organizations also had donors who would have generously supported their scholarship program if they would have had access to additional tax credits.

Please consider the impact of \$450,000 (75% of \$600,000) on the Kansas state budget compared to the impact of \$600,000 on the educational future of the 1,212 students who rely on scholarships from Support for Catholic Schools. The increased credit limit with an escalator clause minimizes the chances of this scenario in the future.

Second, thank you also for considering legislation that would allow Kansas children to be eligible for scholarship associated with the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship program.

The Federal Tax Credit Scholarship program has an opportunity to give working families access to educational options that meet their children's needs and gives donors an incentive, that costs the state of Kansas nothing, to directly support the public and private education of Kansas children.

Whether the state of Kansas opts-in to this program or not, every federal taxpayer who resides in the state of Kansas will have access to \$1,700 in federal tax credits. If Kansas does not opt-in to this funding and not allow Kansan donors to support Kansan children, dollars will leave the state of Kansas and support children in other states.

It would be disappointing if keeping this funding local was not an option in Kansas.

Thank you again for considering the Low Income Family Assistance Scholarship Act. These two features of the bill have the opportunity to greatly support families who care deeply about their child's education, but, due to their financial circumstance, do not have the resources to access valuable options for their child.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting HB 2468.

Matthew Vettel

Support for Catholic Schools, Inc