

**January 21, 2026**

**Testimony to the House Education Committee**

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**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2468

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Oral Testimony

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2468. I have a number of reasons for opposing this bill, with the main one being...

**Neither the state or the federal government should be diverting funds, via tax credits or other means, to private schools when neither entity is meeting their obligation to fund special education at the required levels.**

I've heard state legislators blame the federal government for the special education shortfall. If that's the case, then why would Kansas consider opting-in to this federal "voucher" program that will enable the diversion of billions of dollars of federal revenue to the private school system?

The program has no cap, so the actual price tag is unknown. Congressional estimates suggested the program could cost the federal government as much as \$4 billion.

The Kansas program should also not be expanded. The only reason the program is approaching the \$10 million cap is because of past expansions that moved the program away from its original intent of assisting low-income at-risk kids. With expansion, the at-risk kids will continue to be passed over in favor of students who better fit admissions criteria set by private schools. I could go on about the lack of accountability in these voucher type programs and other issues, but quite simply...public funds belong with public schools that accept and educate all children. No more money should be diverted to private schools when our public schools (that also provide special education services to private school students) are left carrying the burden of the SPED shortfall from the state and federal government.

Please vote no on HB 2452. Thank you.

Erin Woods

Leawood, KS