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House Bill 2468 - Written_Only Testimony in Opposition

Date of Committee Hearing: January 21, 2026

Dear Chairperson Estes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition to House Bill 2468**. This legislation represents a significant and fiscally irresponsible expansion of the Tax Credit Scholarship program that threatens the stability of our public education system and creates a permanent, uncapped drain on both state and federal resources.

I. Opposition to Increasing the State Tax Credit Cap

HB 2468 seeks to double the current cap on the Tax Credit Scholarship program from \$10 million to \$20 million. We oppose this expansion for the following reasons:

- **Public Funds for Public Schools:** Public tax dollars belong in the public schools that are mandated to educate every child. Expanding this program reduces the state's general fund and undermines our ability to meet the constitutional requirement to adequately fund Kansas public schools.
- **Neglect of Special Education:** The legislature continues to fall short of its statutory obligation to fully fund Special Education. We should not be subsidizing private institutions—which can "pick and choose" their students—while our public schools struggle to provide federally mandated services for students with disabilities.
- **Lack of Accountability:** This program provides no oversight for our tax dollars. There are currently no requirements to collect academic data or measure the progress of students receiving these vouchers. We are essentially writing a blank check to private entities with no proof of educational outcomes.
- **Failure to Serve At-Risk Students:** The original intent was to help low-income, at-risk students. However, those students are not guaranteed the opportunity to be educated in private school. Therefore, this bill would exacerbate the problem of inequity in our state in regards to educational opportunities for all children.

II. Opposition to Opting into the Federal Voucher Program

HB 2468 would require Kansas to opt into the new federal voucher program established by the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA). This is a dangerous policy shift:

- **Unprecedented Fiscal Risk:** Unlike the Kansas program, the federal program has **no aggregate cap**. While individual donations are capped at \$1,700, there is no limit on the

total number of credits issued. Congressional estimates suggest this could result in a **\$4 billion annual loss** in federal revenue—money that should be directed toward IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) funding.

- **Vouchers for the Wealthy:** The federal program allows scholarships for families making up to **300% of their area's median income**. In counties like Johnson County, this could mean families earning over \$300,000 a year would receive public subsidies for private tuition. This is not "targeted aid"; it is a tax loophole for the affluent.
- **100% Tax Credits vs. Charitable Giving:** This is not a standard deduction; it is a **100% dollar-for-dollar tax credit**. This gives donors their entire contribution back from the government, providing a benefit far beyond what any typical Kansas citizen receives for charitable donations.

Conclusion

Kansas should be focused on strengthening the public school system that serves 90% of our children. By doubling the state cap and opting into an uncapped federal program, HB 2468 prioritizes private interests over the public good and creates a fiscal "black hole" that will haunt the state budget for years to come.

We respectfully request that the Committee **vote NO on HB 2468**.

Respectfully submitted,

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