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BILL NUMBER: HB 2468
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair Estes and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 2468 and its proposed expansion of the Tax Credit Scholarship voucher program in Kansas.

HB 2468 would double the current cap on the program from \$10 million to \$20 million and require Kansas to opt in to a new federal-level voucher program included in the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill.” Both components raise serious concerns about equity, accountability, and the long-term impact on Kansas public education.

The original intent of the Tax Credit Scholarship program was to help low-income, at-risk students access educational opportunities they otherwise could not afford. However, the program has consistently failed to meet that goal. For years, fewer than 1% of eligible low-income students in Kansas received scholarships through this program. Rather than addressing this shortcoming, legislative leadership chose to expand income eligibility. Only because of that expansion is the program now nearing its \$10 million cap, and now House leadership is asking taxpayers to commit even more public dollars to private schools.

Private schools are not required to serve all students. They can select whom they admit and whom they exclude. As income limits expand, private schools can more easily bypass at-risk students and award scholarships to students who better fit their admission criteria. This leaves the very children the program was intended to help—low-income and at-risk students—at an even greater disadvantage.

Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools, which educate all children, regardless of income, disability, background, or academic need. Expanding this program diverts critical resources away from public schools and undermines the state’s ability to adequately fund them. At a time when Kansas continues to struggle with fully funding special education, it is deeply concerning to redirect funds to private institutions that are not required to serve students with special needs.

Additionally, the Tax Credit Scholarship program lacks meaningful accountability. There are no requirements to collect data, measure student progress, or demonstrate educational outcomes for students receiving scholarships. Kansas taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability for how public funds are used—standards that are required of public schools but absent from this program.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 2468. Expanding an inequitable and unaccountable voucher program is not in the best interest of Kansas students, families, or taxpayers. Our focus should be on strengthening and fully funding public education for all children, not subsidizing private schools that can choose whom they serve.

Thank you for voting no on HB 2468.

Sincerely,

Megan Langford
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