

**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:** WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee, I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 2468, which contains two separate but related proposals: expanding Kansas's existing Tax Credit Scholarship program and opting Kansas into a new federal voucher program.

**Part I: Opposition to Expanding the Kansas Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

The Tax Credit Scholarship program was originally promoted as a limited program to serve low-income, at-risk students. In practice, fewer than one percent of eligible students initially benefited. Only after the legislature expanded income eligibility did the program begin approaching its current \$10 million cap. Now, legislative leaders seek to double that cap to \$20 million—diverting even more public tax dollars to private schools.

**Private schools** are not required to serve all students and **can choose whom to admit**. Under expanded income limits, **they can more easily bypass at-risk students** in favor of applicants who better fit their admission criteria. Expanding this program further will continue to **disadvantage the very students it was purportedly created to help**.

Public dollars belong in public schools—schools that educate all children. Increasing this cap reduces state revenues, undermines the ability to adequately fund public education, and diverts resources away from critical needs such as special education. **The program also lacks meaningful accountability, with no requirements to collect data or measure student outcomes.**

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**Part II: Opposition to Opting Into the Federal Voucher Program**

HB 2468 would also require Kansas to opt into a new federal voucher program beginning in 2027. Like Kansas's existing program, it provides tax credits for contributions to scholarship organizations—but with **even greater fiscal risk**.

Under the federal program, donors receive a 100% dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit, effectively reimbursing them in full. Unlike the Kansas program, **there is no cap on the total cost**.

Congressional estimates suggest this could result in up to \$4 billion annually in lost federal revenue, with unknown downstream impacts on states.

At the same time, the federal government continues to fall short of its obligation to fully fund special education. **Kansas should not opt into a program that sends federal dollars to private schools—many serving high-income families—while unmet special education needs persist in public schools.** Under this program, vouchers would be available to families earning up to 300% of area median income, including over \$300,000 in some Kansas counties.

**Public dollars belong with public schools.** Until special education is fully funded **and strong accountability is in place**, Kansas should reject further expansion of voucher programs at both the state and federal levels.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2468.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Cassandra Woolworth

Constituent

Olathe, KS