

Proponent Testimony of S.B. 75

For the Senate Education Committee

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Emily Aragon

Student, Maranatha Christian Academy

Chair Erickson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 75 on behalf of Maranatha Christian Academy.

My name is Emily Aragon, and I am a 15-year-old student at Maranatha Christian Academy. I began to attend Maranatha when I was in fourth grade. Prior to attending Maranatha, I had been homeschooled my whole life. I was blessed with the opportunity to pick a school that was the best fit for my needs and aspirations. I know many students in Kansas do not get this option because they cannot afford it. The switch from homeschooling to private school was scary and difficult but Maranatha's loving, welcoming, and nurturing staff made it all worth it. I owe it to my hardworking parents that sacrificed so much to give me and my sister the best life possible, and Maranatha's staff for shaping with unconditional support and guidance, teaching me the value of perseverance, and reminding me that no dream or goal is too big when it is fueled by dedication and passion. I ask for your help and support to make Education Opportunity Expansion accessible for all Kansans.

I passionately believe that all Kansans should have access to an education that not only prepares them for their future, but also empowers them to make a positive, lasting impact on our society. Private or public, every student should get a choice in their education. As our nation's future we must ensure that every student, regardless of their family's financial status, has access to the school best fit for them. Maranatha has aided families with over \$400,000 in financial support in 2024. The ability to give back the families who work day in and day out a tax cut makes private education all the more accessible to those whose needs are best met through private schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I am happy to stand for questions.