



**Date:** January 28, 2025

**To:** Senator Renee Erickson, Chair, Kansas Senate Education Committee

**From:** Dr. Lorenzo Rizzi, Associate Superintendent for Student Services in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Madam Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 75 in support of school choice. I am testifying on behalf of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, which serve thousands of students across a large portion of our state. We strongly advocate for the passage of school choice in this Bill, which we believe is essential for empowering families, enriching education, and supporting the common good of our communities.

For over a century, Catholic schools have provided an exceptional education rooted in academic excellence, faith formation, and character development. Yet, we recognize that not all families in Kansas have access to the educational environment that best fits their children's needs—whether due to financial limitations, geographic constraints, or other barriers. School choice legislation would give parents the opportunity to select the schools that align with their values and meet their children's unique needs, regardless of their economic status or zip code.

This legislation is not about undermining public education but about complementing it. We are proud to collaborate with public schools in serving the children of Kansas. School choice programs have proven in other states to elevate educational outcomes for all students, fostering innovation and healthy competition.

Furthermore, this legislation respects the fundamental role of parents as the primary educators of their children, a principle recognized by both our Catholic faith and the broader American tradition. By allowing families to direct their education dollars to the school of their choice, we honor their God-given responsibility to seek the best for their children.

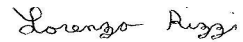
We know firsthand the transformative power of education. In our Catholic schools, students consistently outperform state and national averages in academic achievement, develop a strong moral compass, and graduate as leaders committed to their communities. School choice legislation would expand this opportunity to more families, especially those from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds.

We urge you to consider the profound impact this legislation will have on the lives of Kansas children and families. Providing parents with educational options is not only a matter of fairness but also a strategic investment in the future of our state.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the well-being of Kansas children. We pray for your wisdom as you deliberate this important issue and humbly ask for your support of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lorenzo Rizzi

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorenzo Rizzi".

Associate Superintendent for Student Services  
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Catholic Schools