



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA

TO: Madam Chair Senator Erickson and members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Geoff Andrews, Superintendent of Schools, Salina Diocese

DATE: February 6, 2025

Dear Madam Chair Erickson and committee members,

My name is Geoff Andrews, and I serve as the Superintendent of Schools for the Catholic Diocese of Salina. The Salina Diocese spans 26,000 square miles across north central and northwest Kansas, from the Flint Hills to Mount Sunflower, with schools located in mostly rural communities. I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 87, which expands student eligibility under the tax credit for low-income students scholarship program, increases the amount of the tax credit for contributions made to this program, and provides for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions.

Over the past four years, the low-income tax credit scholarship program has provided critical assistance to 152 students within our diocese. Without this program, these students would most likely not have the opportunity to attend our Catholic schools. These students come from families facing financial hardships, and this scholarship program has allowed them to receive a high-quality, faith-based education that would otherwise be out of reach. Our Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for the Salina Diocese has been instrumental in ensuring that these students have access to the resources they need to thrive academically and personally. The positive impact this program has had on our students and their families cannot be overstated.

I support Senate Bill 87 because I believe that more families should have access to the same opportunities that have benefited our students. Expanding student eligibility and increasing the tax credit amount will enable more children from low-income households to attend schools that best meet their educational needs.

I respectfully ask the committee to support SB 87 to ensure that more students can benefit from this life-changing program. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Geoff Andrews

Superintendent of Schools

Salina Diocese