

Indicate Proponent/ Testimony of SB338

For the Senate Education Committee

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Jennifer Laporte

President, Christian Home Education Coalition of Kansas

Madame Chair, members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Laporte and I am testifying as a proponent for SB 338.

I am the president of the statewide homeschool association, Christian Home Education Coalition of Kansas (CHECK), which includes representatives from homeschooling groups across the state. Our mission includes providing accurate, helpful information on home education; advocating for home education in the state legislature and other relevant agencies and organizations; and hosting Homeschool Capitol Day, which takes place this year on Thursday, February 5th.

While being involved in my community over the last several years, I have frequently been asked the question of where my children attend school. I don't believe I have ever answered that question with, "a non-accredited private or nonpublic school." I have always simply answered, "We homeschool."

While my usual answer is certainly more concise and less of a tongue-twister, I have also known that Kansas statutes do not contain the word home school, or they didn't, until very recently. The statute establishing the "Career technical workforce grant" program ([KSA 74-32,423](#)) provides that the graduate of a home school program is an "eligible student" and the statute providing for public school activity access ([KSA 72-7121](#)) includes home school students. However, neither of these statutes define or connect the phrase 'home school' to the existing statutory language of non-accredited private or nonpublic schools.

Currently and historically, the practice throughout the state is to treat a home school as a non-accredited private or nonpublic school. Additionally, the Kansas State Department of Education [states](#): "All homeschools are classified as Non-Accredited Private Schools in Kansas." When I started homeschooling my first student in the early 2000's, I registered our nonaccredited private school according to the statute.

The intent of the bill is to place the informal common usage word "homeschool" in the more formal legislative context of statutory language – included in the classification of non-accredited private school or non-accredited nonpublic school. The language of the definition is a straightforward summary of the lived experience of homeschool families in Kansas for the last

forty plus years. Homeschool laws in other states use similar language of parents directing the private education of their children.

No legislative changes to the process or treatment of homeschooling are included in the bill.

I ask you to support this bill to provide clarity to the term home school in current statutes and avoid any unnecessary confusion in future legislation.