



yes. every kid.
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Chairwoman Tyson and members of the committee,

My name is Shannon Pahls, and I represent yes. every kid. Our goal is to enable every family with the ability to customize an education that best matches their child's unique talents, interests, and priorities. We support SB 509, which establishes the education opportunity tax credit.

Each child is unique, and no one understands their individual needs better than their family. The typical one-size-fits-all education system does not account for this. That is why we support this legislation, which will empower Kansas families with decision-making authority for their children's education.

Individual education tax credits have strong support across the nation. Two-thirds of the general public – and 80% of parents of K-12 students – support personal education tax credits, and two-thirds of parents believe they will improve education in our country, according to a [recent poll](#) by yes. every kid. foundation. and YouGov.

Education tax credits empower families with an alternative and streamlined approach to educational choice policies, allowing a parent or guardian to receive a tax credit when they educate their children outside of a public school setting. These policies can be simple for states to implement as they leverage existing tax mechanisms.

In 2023, Oklahoma passed similar legislation with the Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit, the largest and most expansive education tax credit program to date. In just the first two-and-a-half days of the open application period for the universal, refundable tax credit, the state received applications for [nearly 30,000 kids](#). These came from about 18,000 families looking to select the best education that suits their child's unique passions and interests.

As a policy, tax credits are not a new idea. The federal Child Tax Credit, for instance, is broadly popular across the nation, and about [one-third](#) of families use it on education expenses today. Oklahoma's experience further shows us that families are ready and able to craft their kids' educational journey.

Last year, eight states passed legislation to create universal education freedom and more states set to do so this year. This momentum is driven by families' desire to have a say in their kids' education.

Whether it's public, private, homeschool or a combination of those, families deserve the final say in where and how their children are educated.

It's time to make Kansas the next leader in parental choice by supporting SB 509 to empower Kansas families to choose a learning environment that meets their needs. Every child is different and deserves an educational experience that works best for them regardless of their home address or income. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable support of this legislation.

Shannon Pahls
Public Affairs Director
yes. every kid.