



yes. every kid.
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 0280
Arlington, VA 22203

February 14, 2024

Chairwoman Baumgardner and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shannon Pahls, and I represent yes. every kid. We are an organization whose purpose is to enable every family with the ability to customize an education that best matches their child's unique talents, interests, and priorities. That's why we support SB 437, which allows families to supplement their children's education with opportunities that enable their kids to thrive.

Each child is unique, and no one understands their individual needs better than their family. This legislation creates a pathway for families to direct funding toward educational uses that meet their children's needs. Whether it be tutoring, academic-related camps, assessments, or more, this bill empowers families with funds to allow their children to excel.

The KEEP program has provided Kansas students with additional resources since the COVID-19 pandemic. Tens of thousands of students from all 105 counties have benefited from the program so far. When recently announcing that the program has distributed all its allocated funds, the governor stated, "KEEP has been instrumental in providing access to materials and programs that strengthen academic success for Kansas children."

This bill would ensure that even more Kansans can benefit and supplement their education with a KEEP grant. In today's rapidly evolving world, education extends far beyond the walls of a school. Families play a crucial role in shaping a child's learning experience, and it is essential to provide them with the resources necessary to enhance their children's educational journey. This program is dedicated to education enrichment and would undoubtedly contribute to fostering a more comprehensive and well-rounded learning environment.

These targeted resources for families will provide Kansas students access to multiple enrichment opportunities. Access to supplementary education resources is often unevenly distributed among families, leading to educational disparities. SB 437 helps bridge this gap, ensuring that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have equal opportunities to enhance their learning.

Continuing the KEEP program is a strategic investment in the future of Kansas students and our state as a whole. By empowering families to supplement their children's education enrichment opportunities, we can create a more equitable, personalized, and resilient educational system that prepares students for success.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of SB 437.

Shannon Pahls
Public Affairs Director
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