

Testimony before the
House Committee for K-12 Education Budget
on
HB 2119

oral in-person by

Stephanie Noyes, Former Private School Teacher & Parent of Public School Children

I stand as an opponent to HB 2119.

Thank you for allowing me a few moments to stand before you and share a little bit about my family and how this bill will negatively affect families just like mine.

My name is Stephanie Noyes and I went to private schools right here in Topeka. I taught at private schools and sent my kids to private schools. I understand the benefits private schools can offer certain families, just not all families.

When I was pregnant I found out I was a carrier of Fragile X Syndrome – which causes severe learning delays and autism. When our children with special needs began their schooling we quickly learned that private schools could not meet their needs.

We made the decision to move to USD 345 Seaman School District for their special needs program. If funding is taken away from the public schools and given to private schools – how are we going to meet the needs of the students private schools do not serve? Where are we supposed to go? If we are looking for equality in education - is education only for the able minds and bodies or for all? I believe it is for all.

So when you're discussing this bill, I hope that you'll remember this bill is not offering a "choice" to Kansas families. That "choice" is always there for certain families. This bill takes away from those of us who do not have a "choice." If we want our children's needs to be met, public schools are our only option and they should be adequately funded to help meet the needs of all students.