

## **Oral In-Person with Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 128**

Pamela McDermott,  
Pastoral Staff with Morning Star Church  
Founder, Teacher at Gram's Homeschool Academy, 2017  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Senate District #3

Honorable Chairman Tyson, Vice-Chair Peck, Ranking Minority Holland,  
and Committee Members,

I'm excited to be able to write as well as speak **in favor of SB 128**.

I am the mother of 5 adult children, ages 23 to 31, and I homeschooled each of them through elementary school and most of middle school. Currently, my husband and I have 6 grandchildren between the ages of 1 and 13, and another will be born in June. I have been homeschooling our oldest grandchild since 2020, and the next oldest attends Veritas Christian School.

I understand this bill will have no bearing on children in foster care, but we are also foster parents, and we have had the opportunity to have several teenage boys in our home over the past 6 years. There were many, many times I wished I could have the 7 hours a day they were at public school to help them catch up in all the areas they were tragically behind, particularly in reading or that I could send them to a smaller school where they would have more individual attention and fewer distractions. It's unfortunate and unfair.

**Parents are responsible for the education of their children, not the State.** I took that responsibility and opportunity seriously. I wanted to make every effort to ensure my kids would be excellent readers, independent thinkers, and lifelong learners whatever the personal cost.

**Kids learn differently, and they need and deserve options.** Over the years, I chose to delegate my children's education to Lawrence Public Schools, Veritas Christian School, and Bishop Seabury Academy. I wouldn't change any of our choices even though some of them came at great financial cost.

**Public education and public school culture have changed dramatically, for the worse, over the past 15 years and even more so since 2020.** More than 10,000 students have left the public school system in Kansas since 2020, **for good reasons.** Many more parents would choose something different for their children if they had the resources.

**This bill makes good education more accessible to young people by making it affordable to more families.**

I ask for your support for SB128 for these reasons.

Thank you,  
Pam McDermott  
Lawrence, KS