

LETTER OF TESTIMONY FOR: Senate Bill 128 – Establishing the ad astra opportunity tax credit to provide an income tax credit for taxpayers with eligible dependent children not enrolled in public school.

SUBMITTED BY: Stacy and Jamie Sue Moore
7 N Saint James Pl
Eastborough, KS 67206

Senator Caryn Tyson, Senator Virgil Peck, Senator Tom Holland, and the members of the Kansas Senate Committee of Assessment and Taxation,

My family are lifelong Kansans. Both my wife and I were born in Kansas and always attended public school, myself in Manhattan (USD 383) and my spouse in Liberal (USD 480). I wish I would feel comfortable and excited about my daughter attending public school in Wichita (USD 259), I do not.

For the duration of my daughter's life, my wife and I have pursued a world class education for her. She attended the Child Development Center at McConnell Air Force Base, and went on to The Independent School in Wichita. Three years ago, due to our desire to have our daughter raised in a Christian environment, we chose to place her in Trinity Academy. Our daughter has excelled throughout all of these programs and will be a Citizen any state or republic would crave.

The cost of all of this has been born by my wife and I. We have averaged approximately 10,000 dollars per year for our daughter's education. By the time she has finished school we will have expended approximately 200,000 dollars in tuition alone. This, just to ensure her education prior to college. The State of Kansas, by certain estimates, spends in excess of 50% of its budget on educating students, of which my daughters' education has received little of. This bill would rectify in a small amount some of that shortfall.

I know politics today is viewed through many lenses. I know there are constituencies that advocate strongly against my position. I believe in funding the greater good. However, in this particular situation, it appears disingenuous to continue to charge my family for a product I have little interest in purchasing. Schools in Kansas lack a mechanism to hold them accountable, this bill would be a step in the right direction. Thank you all for broaching this first step and I look forward to any opportunity this bill may take in becoming state law.

Sincerely,

Stacy G. Moore