

SB-128 Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit

Proponent Written Testimony

Sarah Lock
Lecompton, KS

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

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB-128. I would like to ask you to vote to pass Senate Bill 128 to allow for a refundable tax credit.

I would like to share our story with you to help explain why Senate Bill 128 in its current format would be so beneficial to our private home school.

Our story is a little unique in that it begins with a vaccine injury my son incurred at the age of 4. His “severe adverse reaction,” as listed on the vaccine information sheet, resulted in hearing loss which requires hearing aids. Our bodies are incredible at adapting, and for him to understand speech his brain uses the amplified sound from the hearing aids in conjunction with the shapes that people’s mouths make when speaking to understand what people are saying. He can’t read lips outright, but his brain needs to see a speaking mouth in order to understand the words being spoken.

He was doing fine in public school until they implemented mask mandates. The masks muffled peoples voices and covered their lips. When this occurred, public school was no longer a viable option for my son’s education since he would not be able to understand his peers or teachers.

To ensure my son’s continued success in learning we chose to begin homeschooling him and his siblings. The best part of this journey has been discovering that we love homeschooling because we get to tailor the education experience to each child’s unique learning style. Getting to see the excitement in their eyes when they discover and learn something new is the greatest reward.

There is a large cost associated with homeschooling. When we were enjoying the benefits of public school all we had to provide were some classroom materials and the schools provided the rest. I felt like my tax dollars were going to good use.

Since we began homeschooling, our family has been paying thousands of dollars to obtain the resources needed to provide a quality education, including but not limited to: books, curriculum, toner/ink cartridges, printer, laminator, book binding, transportation costs, online classes, etc. We have seen these costs continue to increase as inflation drives prices higher and will be paying thousands more for new curriculum and materials every year. Even our grocery bill is higher as a result of homeschooling because our children aren’t at school eating lunch, they are eating it at home. Furniture such as tables and chairs to create a space for them to work at home, and the various resources listed above are all things I took for granted until I had to start paying for them at our home-

based private school. Field trips make learning more tangible and we incur all of the transportation costs and admission fees associated with these valuable in-person learning experiences.

When children attend public school the costs of education are covered in large part by tax payer dollars and most of the costs listed above do not have to be provided by those families with children in public school. As a home-based private school our family incurs all these financial responsibilities in addition to helping pay for public-school costs.

A refundable tax credit equal to the amount for “Kansas Base State aid per KSA 72-5132” would lessen this financial undertaking and expand our capacity to enrich our children’s learning experiences through avenues for education that we have not had resources for.

Currently educational choice is not as free as it should be because the governmental financial support is directed to only one educational option. SB 128 allows for true freedom of educational choice by allowing parents a tax credit that balances those choices financially.

We are choosing private schooling for the freedom to learn, explore and discover together, and it is important that SB 128 remain a clean bill without strings attached to how parents decide to best utilize the refundable tax credit to educate our children.

I kindly ask for your support of SB 128 for these reasons.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Lock