

**February 9, 2023**

**Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee**

**NAME:** Kelly Dean Brende

**TITLE:** SMSD Parent and Taxpayer

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**BILL NUMBER:** SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

Dear Chair & Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my OPPOSITION to bill SB 128.

I truly believe using public dollars for private schools drains the public schools of needed resources for successful student learning. We should not be diverting public tax dollars to private schools especially at a time when legislators should be focused on the \$160 million shortfall in special education funding. The state should fully fund special education, not private schools.

Also, low income students are hurt by voucher programs. Tuition at many private schools is greater than the amount covered by Education Savings Accounts, leaving out those students without the means to make up the difference or who don't have reliable transportation. Meanwhile, funding for their neighborhood school is drained.

Furthermore, public schools are economic drivers. Businesses and families look for quality public schools when relocating. Quality public schools also protect our property values which again drive businesses and families to relocate to Kansas.

I request that you oppose SB 128 and vote NO so this bill does not make it out of this Committee.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Kindly,

Kelly Dean Brende  
Leawood, Kansas