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Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPOSER, OPPOSER, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written only testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 128

I'm frankly quite astounded at many aspects of this bill. First, and foremost, this bill that provides a \$5,100 tax credit for anyone who sends their child to an accredited or NON-ACCREDITED private school with no income cap is begging for wealthy people to take advantage of another tax loophole. For a 'school' to qualify, all they need to do is register with the Kansas State Department of Education. There are so many ways this could be taken advantage of, at the cost of Kansas taxpayers. A family with 3 kids in a private school would get a tax credit of \$15,300... and if the credit is more than what is owed, they get it in a refund. This is just throwing money at families who already utilize private education, as well as this is harmful to public education by attempting to bribe families with tax credits to move their children out of public education with no promise of an actual quality education for their children elsewhere. Private schools don't have to accept children like my nonverbal autistic child, and yet this bill aims to bolster and support these unregulated institutions.

There are already over 25,000 Kansas children in private schools. That means on the onset, this bill will cost the state over \$130 MILLION dollars. But that's not all, as there are 30,000 children currently who are not attending accredited private schools and not attending public. But under the 'non-accredited' umbrella, this could potentially cost another \$150 million dollars on top. So almost \$300 million dollars just given away without truly any oversight? The fact that the legislature refuses to full fund Special Education for half that cost (disabled kids like mine already going without supports) but instead a proposal like this bill to bankroll private education? This is harmful to Kansas children, considering the vast majority are currently in public schools, and they will certainly not see a cent of this kind of money, which is desperately needed in our public education.

Vote NO and oppose SB 128, and find a way to support public education where schools accept and educate ALL children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dawn Brumbley
Olathe district parent
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