

February 8, 2023

Dear Elected Official,

I am writing this letter today to endorse in the strongest possible way Senate Bill 128. For 19 years I have been personally involved in a local private school as a parent, teacher or administrator. Our children attended this private school for 12 years and during those 12 years we were paying tuition and paying our taxes to support the local public school. It was a significant burden for us as a family but we knew it was a sacrifice that was best for our children and we have never regretted that decision. For the 19 years that I have served in some capacity at a private school it has been painful to encounter other families that truly believed that a private school would be a better fit for their student but were unable to make it happen financially. Some families, even with sacrifices and extra jobs are not able to give their children the educational choice that they believe would be best for their children. It seems like a simple and fair solution to allow some of the finances that are allocated for education to follow the child, so that all families can make the best choice for their child.

In over thirty states, families have some viable options that empower them to choose the best educational fit for their child(ren). I believe it is time that Kansas joins that growing list of states. As an educator I know that one size fits all does not work for every child. We have many families at our school who have some of their children in our school and also have others in either public school or homeschool. It seems right to allow those that know the child best, the parent or guardian, to have the freedom to choose their educational path without having to jump over the huge financial hurdle that they now face. Many of the private schools in our state educate students for about one third to one half of what is spent on the education of the same child in the public setting. But even though this is a great value, paying even these amounts for tuition on top of taxes automatically disenfranchises a large number of Kansas families.

Please seize this opportunity to invest in Kansas children and the future of our state, by giving parents the freedom to choose the best educational option for their child(ren) and pass Senate Bill 128.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

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