

House K-12 Budget Committee

Written testimony in support of HB 2465: Amending the tax credit for low income student scholarship program act to expand student eligibility.

January 26, 2021

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Madam Chair and members of the House K-12 Budget Committee:

My name is Mr. Gerry Hamilton, Principal at St. Anne Catholic School in Wichita, Kansas.

Many of the students here at St. Anne Catholic School that receive assistance from the Support for Catholic Schools (SCS), the SGO serving the Diocese of Wichita, funding helps make it possible for these students to be in our building. Otherwise, they would not be here. Many of our students come from financially disadvantaged homes, and some of these students are transfer students from public schools that are low performing in academics.

Our parents are looking for a school their children may receive the best education closest to home, and it allows parents to feel assured that our school is forming the whole child in academics and faith.

I reiterate, how important SCS funding is for our school with our free and reduced head count at 77%. We expect this number to rise in the future due to lost jobs within our school community during the pandemic. Nevertheless, our main goal is to form and educate the whole child to be productive citizens in their faith and academics.