

## Legislative Testimony In Support of **HOUSE BILL No. 2119**

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Education Committee  
February 8, 2021

To Mrs. Chairwoman Christie Williams and the House Education Committee Members, my name is Bishop Wade Moore, Jr. I serve in a number of leadership roles within the city of Wichita, Kansas. I am the Senior Pastor of Christian Faith Centre Church which is a multi-cultural congregation of 300+ members. I have also served as the President of the Greater Wichita Ministerial League representing over 40 churches in our city from various denominations and faiths. I am also the Founder of the Urban Preparatory Academy-Wichita, a private school dedicated to helping students who are struggling to keep pace with their peers in their educational journey. We are located in the heart of Northeast Wichita.

We began the Urban Preparatory Academy fall 2014. We offer children in grades K-8<sup>th</sup> and opportunity to attend a great school of choice. We have a very rigorous curriculum in Math and Reading. We assess each of our incoming students coming to us from the public school system. Students are assessed in the beginning of the school year and at the end of each semester. Students are monitored monthly to see where they are making gains or if they will need additional support. We have seen extreme growth in their academics and parents have testified of their child's attitude toward school, homework and social growth to be amazing.

I am in full support of House Bill 2119. This bill would significantly improve the education of low income and at risk students who are tired of failing! It would certainly benefit the students I see daily in our school, church and community. Since we have begun the school year I see students hanging out in the streets surrounding our school. Some of these students come onto our playground area and hang out during school hours. When I ask them about remote and hybrid learning they are very indifferent and disappointed how things are going. They seem to have lost hope. When speaking to them about being in school full time they ask if they can attend our school. If this bill is passed the students hanging out in the streets that are falling further behind in their educational journey will have hope again and the opportunity to get a good education and technical skill. The hybrid and remote learning models, as we know them today are failing a

great number of children. Parents and students should be empowered to find the right school for their children. I am available for questions and answers should any of the committee members have any that would further clarify why this bill will work to benefit students and families.

Sincerely,

Wade Moore, Jr.

Founder/Dean

Urban Preparatory Academy-Wichita