

Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit SB128

Support: Written only

Beth Regehr

As the daughter of lifelong educators, sibling to educators, and an Aunt to educators, I am deeply invested in the privilege an education provides. I am currently a private paid educator in a faith based school where every dollar is an investment in the life of a child. Outside of the classroom, I tutor math for students in my local district, and have experience as a paraprofessional for the county education co-op.

Tax relief for parent choice is a step towards empowering parents and legal guardians who recognize the benefits of faith based curriculum and teachers with moral and ethical values demonstrated freely in their classrooms. The current aptitude in my local government district has declined dramatically with the challenges of the administrations' chosen response to covid, and online learning for the challenged learner has only resulted in frustration and failure to thrive. If tax dollars follow the student in the form of tax credits, at least parents have the financial provision to send their student where the educational process best reflects the values and beliefs of the family and culture of home.

SPED services are extremely beneficial to challenged learners and unfortunately understaffed and underfunded in my county. It is my belief that every student deserves the opportunity to learn and thrive at their own individual accommodation, whether inter-related or in a resource room environment. Not all students are college bound but they are all graduating into jobs, communities, and civic duties. Funding should follow the student and allow charter or faith based disciplines.

A parent should be free to choose whether to educate in a government run public school with strained teacher to student ratios and controversial curriculum, a family homeschool with one on one life skills and application, or the private sector of smaller class ratios and personal conviction of faith or chartered interest. Centralized institutional education has led to this need for legislation and laws supporting a Kansans' freedom to choose have my support.

I am a proponent of renaissance in our educational system and in the financial incentive or tax credits allowing parents to put their money where their values are. As a parent of a college graduate, I don't support debt relief or free education, but our communities need the ability to input tax dollars where their children will be trained in life and occupational skills in a culture diverse in educational opportunities.

Thank you for your time and service representing my voice.