

House K-12 Budget Committee

Verbal Testimony in Support of HB 2068: Amending the tax credit for low income student scholarship program act to expand student eligibility.

Parent of 3 students: Evangelina Abril, Topeka, KS

My name is Evangelina Abril. I would first like to state that having my children in Catholic schools has definitely proven to be a gift in very difficult situations.

When my daughters first started their education in Catholic schools my financial situation was very different than what we find ourselves in now. We moved to Kansas after living in Phoenix, Arizona my youngest was not in school yet, my middle child was going to be in 3rd grade and my oldest was going into the 7th grade. Not knowing Topeka and looking at the school district where we were living in at the time, we were concerned about their education. In Arizona you have a choice of where your kids can go to school regardless of the district boundaries. We found ourselves in a situation that we were not used to. So we looked at the local Catholic schools. We went to Holy Family and we instantly fell in love with the staff. So we enrolled them. Life happens and things ended with my marriage. I definitely struggled financially and was open with the school. Mr. Anderson the principal, said he would help and mentioned something that might be helpful. After I had tried to qualify for the tax credit scholarship program that he was hoping would help, we discovered that I did not qualify. Luckily other forms of scholarship were available. It was a very trying time. I wasn't sure if I would be able to continue having my daughters in Catholic education. If this legislation is changed it would be a great benefit to families that want a better education for their children. It should be easier to want that as a parent for our children. It should not be that difficult and stressful.

Thank you
Evangelina Abril