

HB 2550
OPPONENT testimony (written only)
January 31, 2022

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

I oppose this bill for many reasons.

It diverts taxpayer funds from our public schools to private schools. Private schools do not have the same accountability as public schools. They are not bound to the same curriculum as public schools and in many cases include religious instruction that should not be subsidized by public funds.

Additionally, this is unfair to Kansas taxpayers and would create a two-tier education system that may benefit some students while hurting the majority of students. Private schools do not follow the same admission policies as public schools and have a choice to pick a small number of preferred students and deny most others. Students deemed unworthy by any measure (low test scores, physical or learning disabilities, etc.) would not be allowed a real choice. They would simply remain in a current system that would have less funding as a result of the funds diverted by this bill.

I am a proud product of a private religious based education. My family sacrificed to make that possible. We would have never thought to ask for public tax payer funded assistance for it. We would have never wanted a state mandate that requires other taxpayers to pay for our tuition.

This bill is not about educational choice. This is about profits and personal gain. It moves public money into private hands without accountability. It would provide a new tax break to those already using private educational institutions. As a result, it would damage public schools and the students and communities that currently rely on them. I strongly oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Pat Gouger
Private Citizen
Overland Park, KS