HB 2550 OPPONENT testimony Written Only

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

I oppose this bill for many reasons, mainly because it diverts taxpayer funds from our public schools to private schools. Private schools do not have the same accountability standards as public schools. 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.

As a pediatrician and parent of a child who benefitted from the special education services in our public schools I am very concerned that our public schools will be inadequately funded if this bill passes. Public schools are required to serve all children while private schools can choose who they serve. Taking public education dollars and giving them to private schools is unfair and unnecessary. If a parent chooses private education that is their right but they do not have the right to inflict that choice on others by limiting their obligation as a citizen to fund our public education system.

Sincerely, Amy Voelker, MD, FAAP Pediatrician and parent. avoelker@preferredped.com