

HB 2550  
OPPONENT testimony  
Written Only

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

I have some experience with private schools. When we considered private schools for our daughters, they were both tested for IQ and grade competence before they were considered for admittance. It was crystal clear to me that the only reason private schools can boast their high graduation and college statistics is because they choose who to educate. They only choose students who are practically guaranteed to succeed because of mental capacity and parental involvement and support. In case you wonder, both our daughters were accepted into private schools. Our younger daughter went to a private school for two years, but the older one adamantly refused because of the reasons I just stated. Public education accepts every single student who falls in their district. Public schools truly are the backbone of our country, educating everyone. We returned to public school for our younger one.

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.

I have taught in a GED classroom, and sometimes there are students from other countries. I have heard their stories of how there is no access to education in their country. Only the wealthy can afford to have tutors or pay tuition. Without exception, their countries of origin are poor and have high illiteracy rates. We do not want that for the US and our citizens.

We need to support a strong public education system, and funneling money away from public education to private schools will only weaken our society as a whole.

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