



Testimony before the

**House K-12 Committee on Education Finance**

on

**HB2550**

by

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**Testimony provided on behalf of the USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association**

Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Our organizations stand in opposition of this bill.

This bill, if it passes, will take money from Kansas communities and Kansas students to provide a small percentage of students scholarships to attend a private school. Kansas private schools operate without KSDE or Kansas Legislative oversight. Private schools have the ability to deny and revoke student attendance. Private schools have the flexibility to teach their own curriculum and beliefs without oversight. Private schools are managed by a private (appointed) board of directors, and are not required or expected to require transparency or make any records public.

At the same time, public-schools are required to abide by both state and federal education regulations. They are required to hold a public election to identify the board of education. Each public school district is required to follow and meet the state accreditation standards. Public schools, by law, are required to accept every student who lives within their district boundaries. Students who have a history of violence, poor

behavior in previous schools, poor academic success, require specialized care, even students who will not graduate with their peer group.

At the same time, there is no significant data that exists that demonstrates private schools provide better educational outcomes or create a stronger learning environment than public schools. Individual stories of success will always exist on both sides of the scale. The bottom line is the Kansas education finance formula, that this committee is responsible to manage, is based on equity for all Kansas communities and students. If the legislature provides educational funding to any organization without oversight and a completely different set of rules, equity in that educational funding system will be lost.