

February 1, 2023
Testimony to the House K-12 Budget Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB2218, Sunflower Education Savings Accounts
Opponent
ORAL testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB2218.

This bill sets up a new bureaucracy, still imposes minimal requirements on the participating schools and diverts funding for private and homeschools so long as the parent isn't getting paid to homeschool their own child. Why should a private school, especially a religious based private school be tax exempt and allowed to be included in a voucher program? They shouldn't be! Public Education will be a directly impacted by this bill, especially rural schools. In order to have an educated functioning society we need strong fully funded public schools.

There is little to no oversight of a private school, these schools can cherry pick their students. My child has recently been diagnosed with Dyslexia and she needs her public school to have access to reading intervention specialist and we need SPED fully funded. Please focus on these needs instead of enabling those who do not need the assistance. This disastrous bill will only hurt students with special education needs like my daughter and children from low-income families.

If you start down this road of diverting funds for tax payer preference what can or worms will this open up? Bills to propose vouchers to be used if fire or police is only needed and stripping their funding?

Please vote NO on HB2218

Thank you for your consideration.

Janell Conner

Olathe, KS