

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Amy Hill

TITLE: Blue Valley District Parent

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BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 128.

As a parent of three children in the Blue Valley District, I have many concerns with bill SB 128. Public tax dollars belong with our public schools supporting all kids in Kansas. 95% of kids in Kansas attend public schools. The lack of oversight around admission practices to private schools and their lack of accountability for education outcomes seems like tax dollars are being paid by all for the benefit of some.

Studies have shown that students who attend private schools through vouchers do not perform better academically than students who attend public schools.

Vouchers also may perpetuate educational inequality. They can benefit more affluent families who are more likely to have the resources to navigate the application process.

Kansas legislators should focus their efforts on strengthening our public school system and not diverting tax dollars to private schools. There is a real opportunity for you to choose to fully fund Special Education which would benefit all students. Our public school teachers have weathered tremendous challenges over the last three years while still showing up every day for our kids and deserve the commitment and support of our representatives. Your efforts should be to support these teachers and making sure we can continue to hire and keep good teachers for children in public schools.

I oppose bill SB 128.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Hill

Parent of three children in Blue Valley District

Olathe, KS