

February 7, 2023

Subject: School Choice, SB 128

Dear Senate Committee,

We are writing to express our support for SB 128. As parents with children enrolled in a private, non-public school, this bill will have significant impact to our family in a positive way.

First, we do support public schools. We have immediate family members who work in the public school system, as well as members who attend public schools across the state. However, we also support having a choice in where our children attend school.

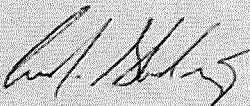
Our children have attended their private school since kindergarten. It is not an affluent, expensive school that we selected for sports opportunities or college preparation; rather, it is a small, non-denominational Christian school selected according to our beliefs and the environment we want our children in on a daily basis during their formative years. While there are multiple sports and other extra curricular activities available, in addition to college credit classes, it is not near the level of the closest public school. We made that informed choice, believing it is important for us to be able to make that decision for our own family.

Our children have thrived at their school. It is not perfect, and there are still struggles that we would expect at any school, public or private; however, we believe our children are successful due to the support we have received from teachers and staff at this particular school over the years. While we know from experience that public school teachers are dedicated to their students and schools, we see an even higher dedication at our school considering the salaries are not as high as surrounding public schools.

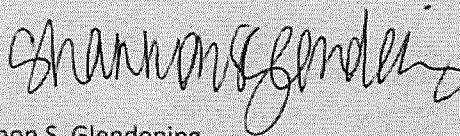
As a specific example, our children continued to learn and meet grade expectations during the spring of 2020 with remote learning. We know our children did not fall behind during that time due to the extraordinary efforts of the teachers and administration at our school.

Support for SB 128 reflects the importance of allowing parents to decide what is best for their family. A tax credit that reflects our choice of school will allow us to further financially support our small school, which in turn will ensure the continued success of current and future students. We request your full support of SB 128 and help in encouraging others to see the importance of school choice in Kansas.

Respectfully,



Aaron J. Glendening
McPherson, Kansas



Shannon S. Glendening