

Madam Chair and members of the House K-12 Budget Committee:

My name is Autumn Wine, and I have a son in First Grade who attends Berean Academy in Elbing, Kansas. I wish to offer testimony in support of SB 128. As a high school graduate of private school, I can say how positively impactful my time at Berean was. My Kindergarten year was the only year I went to public school. That one year was enough to show my parents they needed to make the financial sacrifice to send me, along with my other three siblings, to private school. I transitioned from a student who struggled to one who did very well academically. I attribute these positive changes to the Christian education I received.

I, as well as the other Berean families, pay a portion of our taxes toward the public school system, and only the public school system. This bill would allow many more families the option of private education. My husband and I would love to keep sending our children to Berean but we don't know if we can afford to keep them there. SB 128 would finally make our hope a reality, and keep our children in private school. This bill could keep our kids in a school that we know has great curriculum, the same values, and a safe environment for learning.

Thank you,

Autumn Wine