

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Linda Schroeder

TITLE: Kansas citizen and Blue Valley School District tax payer

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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.

I am a taxpaying senior citizen. I have no children attending public school, only one grandchild still in public school, but now have great grandchildren entering the public school system in Kansas. Providing a quality public education to our children is vital to sustaining democracy and economic health to all citizens of Kansas. Quality education must be available to all.

Our tax dollars must remain with public schools that accept all children. It must not be diverted to private schools that pick and choose those students they deem acceptable while excluding others.

This Opportunity Tax Credit bill will allow the total elimination of Kansas tax by some who qualify, even in some cases receiving a refund. They will be adding nothing to the education "tax pot" while through the voucher system draining the "tax pot". This is leading to the complete erosion of our public education system as fewer and fewer dollars are left for public education.

Why should taxpayers who may not hold the same beliefs as their neighbor, who chooses a private and most often religious school, provide tax dollars for the private education of those children?

I ask you to vote no on bill SB 128 and leave Kansas tax dollars supporting only public education.

Linda Schroeder
Overland Park, KS