

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Michelle Wiens

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BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPONENT, OPPONENT OR NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair and Members of the committee,

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

I am writing with a testimony of the value public schools bring to families and the community. Not only do public schools bring a community together; but they also are a place that can accommodate and manage many families needs as they deal with IEP services. When our family started the education journey we choose a private school. We quickly realized that the private school was not able to accommodate the needs of my child. Thankfully, the public school was able to quickly enroll him, evaluate him, and accommodate his needs that were eventually detailed in an IEP. Public schools have the experience and resources to help students and families that find themselves in this situation. This brought relief to may family in so many ways. I went from receiving daily phone calls from the private school to come get my son to a public school system that was able to care for him and help him grow. Now he is reaching his academic goals and IEP goals. This is just one of many benefits we have seen in the public school system.

Public schools should be and should remain funded by public tax dollars. Diverting money away from public schools would have devastating effects to an already underfunded system. In addition, as a CPA, I see so many issues with giving a refundable credit based on the number of students in a school. This credit could be easily abused and thus an astronomical amount of taxpayer money would be used to fund these credits. The federal government has seen abuse of tax credits through the Employee Retention Credit. The oversight of a qualified home school is virtually impossible. Thus, this bill would be giving public tax money away to unqualified education "institutions".

Please vote NO on bill SB 128.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Wiens
Overland Park, KS