

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 128, Opportunity Tax Credit

PROPOSER, OPPOSER, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

I have fifteen years of experience as an educator in Kansas schools including serving both the Kansas City, Kansas and Shawnee Mission Public School Districts and know the inner workings of our schools well. I urge you to oppose SB 128 because private schools do not meet the needs of ALL Kansas kids like the public schools do. Over the years, I have supported teachers and families as they transition to public schools because the private school down the road will not meet their students' needs. Our public schools deserve funding to meet the needs of the kids in our neighborhoods, regardless of their ability. We welcome everyone. Using public dollars for private schools drains the public schools of needed resources for successful student learning. We do not know that this experiment will work. Private schools are not held to the same accountability standards and are not required to participate in state testing, and in other states this gamble has NOT paid off for student achievement. Don't let Kansas make the same mistake.

Additionally, the state should not be providing money to citizens who are choosing NOT to engage with our public schools. We are giving money without guaranteeing that these students will be ready to be a part of the Kansas workforce. This unregulated industry is not worthy of public funds.

Please vote no on SB 128.

Victoria Lynch
Instructional Coach
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