

Holly Coleman

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2550

BILL DESCRIPTION: Establishing the student empowerment act to provide education savings accounts for certain students to attend participating private schools.

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPOSE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY:

As a Kansas tax payer and parent of students within the public school system, I strongly oppose the creation of education savings accounts that can be used for private schooling. Not only are private schools not held to the same standards as public, but they are grossly under regulated across the board. Furthermore, people using the longstanding, well established public school system should not have to sacrifice funding and subsidize a small number of families who are choosing to send their children to private school instead. If our public schools are appropriately funded, they are more than capable of providing an excellent, well-rounded, standards based education. I am sure most people sitting on the education committee as well as beyond went to public elementary school and have clearly done very well in life. My own children have not only done well, but they have thrived in the public title 1 school that serves our neighborhood. This includes moving beyond grade level during the pandemic and a year that we chose to remote schooling. Our school staff gives everything they have to the students and families, and it shows. It is not right to break a system that has well served the many and funnel the money away towards something that benefits a few. I do not pay Kansas tax dollars to have them go to a private school where I have zero say in terms of educational standards. I strongly oppose HB 2550.