



HB 2550

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/members/rep_williams_kristey_1/

Representative Kristey Williams and Committee Members

OPEN Olathe Public Education Network

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to testify against HB 2550, the bill establishing the student empowerment act to provide education savings accounts for certain students to use to attend participating private schools.

The plan to offer tax funds for the purpose of funding expenses associated with private schools, whether accredited or non-accredited, offers no advantages to students and actually only provides distinct disadvantage to students and to the taxpayers supporting the Kansas Education budget.

Students will be faced with the private schools funded by this bill that fail to offer them the strong, technical, scientific and communication skills absolutely necessary for young women and men in Kansas to be successful, to find callings of their choice or to excel in their professions.

Furthermore, all Kansas students of all abilities are entitled to an appropriately funded, quality education. This bill, however, diverts taxpayer dollars into private schools that refuse admittance to students of varying levels of ability, creating a parallel, non-accessible school system acting as a parasite on our budget.

This bill requires no accountability for these private schools, so it doubly disadvantages students, leaving them at the mercy of curricula which may or may not prepare them to be able citizens of Kansas, contributing members of society, and competent, functioning adults. This bill leaves taxpayers left to wonder, once

more, what the state is doing with our dollars and why the state is so intent on ignoring the real needs of the taxpayers. We need to invest our tax dollars in a fair, quality educational process and thus invest in the current and future vitality of Kansas.

Joan Tedrow Gilson, PhD, 14282 W. 151st Terr. #200,

Olathe, Kansas