

HB 2550
OPPONENT testimony
Written Only

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

I am a retired Kansas public school teacher. I worked for 38 years in the Shawnee Mission school district as did my husband. I am a passionate and enthusiastic supporter of PUBLIC education. I do not wish to discuss the merits or limitations of private education. The choice to attend private schools is personal to families who can afford such an option. It is our public schools that I wish to defend. These schools are open to all regardless of race, sex, religion or abilities. They do not limit who qualifies as a student. They are located in our neighborhoods and help keep our neighborhoods strong. The students attending public schools reflect the rich diversity of their communities. Money diverted to sustain private schools is money lost to strengthening staffing, instructional materials & special educational support for vulnerable children in public schools. Private schools are not subject to the Federal mandates that govern equity for all. Children gain a lot by being in contact with a diverse community of learners and perspectives. In fact, when my parents moved their five children into the Shawnee Mission area over 60 years ago, they looked for an area of diverse housing and schools. They did not want an homogeneous community but one where opportunities were available to all groups of young people. This is why I urge the committee to oppose HB 2550. Tax payer funds should not be diverted into private hands no matter how good the school may be. All tax payer funds should go to stand up the best public school systems as possible. School systems that seek excellence, welcome all and exclude none.

June Farson
Retired Shawnee Mission Teacher
jfarson@kc.rr.com
913-522-4783