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**To:** [Holly Broxterman](#)  
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HB 2550  
OPPONENT testimony  
Written Only

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

I oppose this bill for many reasons, mainly because it diverts taxpayer funds from our public schools to private schools. Private schools do not have the same accountability standards as public schools. Additionally, this is unfair to Kansas taxpayers and would create a two-tier education system that may benefit some students while hurting the majority of students.

As a parent of a first grader, a special education teacher and tax payer, it is egregious to think about the fight for public school funding at equitable levels and then see this bill. In Kansas City, Kansas, where I teach, our Local Option Budget is just about maxed out. Initiatives to add sales tax for school have failed. The Gannon decision helped us. Then, I look at Shawnee Mission, where my daughter goes to school. The Local Option Budget is supported by a sales tax that allows for additional funding. With these learning discrepancies in PUBLIC education, how can we even think about using TAXPAYER dollars to fund more inequity???

Children deserve a quality public education, regardless of their zip code. Until the legislature decides to fund public education so that all districts have what they NEED to educate students, it is unconscionable to consider diverting ANY funds to private schools. When all playing fields are level, there won't be cause to send students to private school because their school is under-performing.

Sincerely,  
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