

Dr. Joy Koesten

3310 W 137th Street

913-972-7883

Leawood, KS 66224

From: Dr. Joy Koesten
Leawood, Kansas

To: K-12 Education Budget Committee
January 31, 2022

Topic: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2550

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

As an educator and former member of the Kansas House of Representatives, I understand the importance of these committee hearings and I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **opposition to HB 2550**.

HB 2550 would divert taxpayer dollars from our public schools into private schools, weakening a core tenant of the 14th amendment and dilute our responsibility to ensure that all kids in our country be given an equal educational opportunity regardless of their race, religion, ethnic background, or any other factor.

Private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They selectively choose who can attend their schools; this is particularly problematic for kids that fall outside the mainstream and need special services to be successful in the classroom.

I urge the committee members to vote no on this bill and continue to fight for educational success in our public schools for all students in our communities.

Respectfully submitted

Joy Koesten, PhD