



COFFEYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE

DR. CRAIG A. CORRELL
615 Ellis
Coffeyville, Kansas 67337
www.usd445.org
Tuesday, February 1, 22

Written Testimony of Dr. Craig A. Correll, Superintendent of Coffeyville Public Schools, USD 445.

House K-12 Education Budget Committee

Chairman Williams and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2525. My name is Craig Correll. I am currently in my 14th year working in Coffeyville and in my 25th year in education.

I wish to share my opposition to proposed bill HB2550. This legislation sets up education savings accounts, which are school vouchers that would take funding from public education. This would allow public money to be distributed to private schools who are allowed to pick and choose which students they want. There are no requirements for private schools to be accredited or provide any transparency on student success. Not only is this unfair to Kansas taxpayers, but would create a two-tier education system that may benefit some students while hurting the majority of students.

Vouchers undermine the State's commitment to public education. The right to a quality education is a guarantee by the Kansas Constitution to any Kansas child. This is attained by providing a public education that is available to every child, regardless of income, race, ability or any other factor. Vouchers will divert precious funds and resources away from public school systems, and allow those funds to provide education for only a few select students at private schools.

Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to enroll and serve all students. This could move Kansas toward a "two-tiered" school system; private school for those students who are chosen to attend and public schools for the more expensive and challenging students with the greatest needs. Private schools aren't required to accept students who need special education or students with disabilities. They are also allowed to turn away students for any number of reasons including; children whose religious views do not align to their institutions, at-risk or behaviorally challenged students, or those who are academically struggling and/or may be identified as a special education student, or minority students and families.

Many voucher schools are permitted to take taxpayer money without implementing any requirements for teacher qualifications, testing, or achievement. This bill would reduce funding

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for public schools while directing public funding to private schools with less public oversight. Private schools should have the same accountability requirements as public schools.

Please help us take a stand for ALL students and public education. We urge you to contact your local representative or senator and stand with us in opposition of HB2550 and any other bill that would take public funds and allow them for private use.

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