



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend
Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Archdiocese of Kansas
City in Kansas
Board Chairman

Most Reverend
John B. Brungardt, D.D.
Diocese of Dodge City

Most Reverend
Carl A. Kemme, D.D.
Diocese of Wichita

Most Reverend
Gerald L. Vincke, S.T.L.
Diocese of Salina

Mr. Chuck Weber
Executive Director

Chuck@KansasCatholic.org
www.KansasCatholic.org
Phone: 785-227-9247
Cell: 316-708-5350

KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE
Kansas Catholic Conference
204 SW 8th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603

WRITTEN ONLY PROPONENT testimony in favor of HB 2468 Electing to participate in the federal tax credit for individual contributions to scholarship granting organizations and increasing the aggregate tax credit limit on the tax credit for low-income students' scholarship program.

TO: Madam Chair Rep. Estes and members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: January 19, 2026

Dear Chair Estes and committee members,

My name is Chuck Weber, and I serve as the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, where I represent the Catholic Bishops of Kansas in the public policy arena.

Thank you for allowing me to share our support for HB 2468. This legislation has two main elements. 1) The "opt in" for the federal Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA), and 2) strengthening the current Kansas low-income tax credit scholarship program that has helped parents and their children for more than ten years.

If HB 2468 becomes law, it will be a significant step forward in the educational opportunities that can be made available for students from both PUBLIC and non-public schools. This is especially exciting for the Catholic community as an estimated 75%-80% of Catholic children attend public schools.

No matter what happens to this legislation, Kansas taxpayers will be able to take advantage of it. Will Kansas students benefit as well?

Regarding the first element of HB 2468, the "opt in" on the ECCA, here's how it will work, assuming this bill becomes law. The taxpayer first donates up to \$1700 to a recognized Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), including a PUBLIC SCHOOL SGO. The taxpayer is then given a 100% tax credit—dollar-for-dollar—off their federal income tax liability.

The SGO can then award scholarships to qualified families (households at or below 300% of their area's gross median income), including students in public and non-public schools to cover services like tutoring, dual-enrollment courses, and educational therapies to support students with disabilities like occupational, physical behavioral or speech language therapy. Scholarships

can also be used for assistive technology like specialized equipment and software to support learning or even specialized instruction.

Please let me be clear—the Catholic Church in Kansas has long supported strong public schools, including fully-funded public schools. We do not bring an “us vs. them” mentality to this discussion. It is our desire and hope that the best educational environment and resources be made available to every child, no matter where a parent decides that happen.

The second element of HB 2468 would focus on a provision to raise the current aggregate cap on donations to the current low-income tax credit scholarship program in Kansas from \$10 million annually to \$20 million. The \$10 million level has not changed since the inception of the program in 2015. **This is the same program that was strengthened in 2023, thanks to legislation signed into law by Governor Laura Kelly.**

Unlike the ECCA (federal) scholarship program, donations to SGO’s only receive a 75% tax credit. The bar for qualifying for a scholarship under this program is more restrictive, 250% of the federal poverty level. That is the same level of eligibility for someone seeking assistance from the federal government through the Affordable Care Act. Please refer to the bill language for more details on that part of the bill.

The Catholic Church has long held that parents are the first and best educators of their children. This does not mean parents must personally educate their child, but it does mean they should be afforded as many options and pathways as possible toward that end. HB 2468 does that for virtually all Kansas children, those in public schools or non-public schools.

Today’s children are coming of age in a diverse and dynamic era. They deserve an equally diverse and dynamic educational setting now to give them the best chance of success. This legislation is a vibrant step forward in providing additional educational resources for students from all families in Kansas, those attending public or non-public schools.

Please support HB 2468 and help make that happen.



Chuck Weber
Executive Director
Kansas Catholic Conference
Chuck@KansasCatholicConference.org