

Bob Kaser  
Castle Pines, Colorado

April 24, 2017

Madam Chair and Distinguished Representatives,

I am Bob Kaser, representing myself. As a 30 year Douglas County resident and a past president of the Douglas County Educational Foundation, I offer the following:

This Bill is titled the "Quality Education and Budget Reduction Act." It is neither - and is simply another attempt to install vouchers.

**"Quality Education" is a euphemism for using tax revenues intended for public education being diverted to support private schools that practice discrimination.**

This is not my opinion, but the facts presented during the Douglas County School District's (DougCo) Voucher trial. Judge Martinez in his decision summarized the sworn testimony of DougCo's Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and several key individuals of the "private schools."

Judge Martinez:

"..a private school need not modify its admissions or hiring criteria, even if they involve religious or other discrimination." (Note 1 Paragraph 30)

"{The private} School Partners to discriminate on the basis of religion in both admission and in employment." (Note 1 Paragraph 46)

"The...program permits participating private schools to discriminate against students with disabilities." (Note 1 Paragraph 49)

"Participating Private School Partners may also engage in other forms of discrimination." (Note 1 Paragraph 50)

**If you vote for this Bill, I believe you need to advise your Constituents that you endorse discrimination.**

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**Promoting this Bill as a "Budget Reduction Act" is woefully inaccurate.**

Yes, there will be a Budget Reduction, but affecting every neighborhood public and charter school in your District!

Your Colorado Legislative Council Revised Fiscal Note determined: "The number of children who transfer from a public school to a private school because of this tax credit will equal approximately {1.1 percent each year} ..." (Colorado Legislative Council Revised Fiscal Note page 4)

For DougCo, 1.1% of this year's 64,200 enrollment equals 706 students induced by this Bill to leave the District, at a PPR of \$7,163 each, is a loss of \$5, 057, 078 in General Fund Revenues. This is while we have a documented, unfunded capital need of \$275,000,000.

With Representative Wilson's patience, the impact to the very well run Salida School District; again, 1.1% of this year's 1,162 enrollment equals 13 students induced by this Bill to leave the District, at a PPR of \$7,310 each, is a loss of \$95,030 to the General Fund. I have to believe this would be a significant loss in a District this size which is only attributed to the passage of this Bill.

Based on Economies of Scale, these voucher dollars will only reduce the General Fund with virtually no expense savings.

**Again, if you vote for this Bill, I believe you need to advise your Constituents that you endorse diverting taxpayer funds from their neighborhood public and charter schools.**

Thank you for your consideration, Bob Kaser

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Note 1: DISTRICT COURT, DENVER COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO  
Plaintiffs: JAMES LARUE, et al., v. Defendants: COLORADO BOARD OF EDUCATION, et al.,  
Case No.: 11cv4424 Combined with: Case No.: 11CV4427

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**Diverting precious dollars from public education only exacerbates our school funding, to wit:**

Dr. Liz Fagen, Superintendent, Douglas County School District, January 11, 2016:

"As you may know, nearly every school district in Colorado currently runs a significant special education deficit that requires a district to reduce an already inadequate per-pupil-revenue (PPR) for every non-special education student in that district."