

SB 2400
Testimony in Opposition.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee.

I am writing to you to respectfully request a Do Not Pass recommendation from this committee on Senate Bill 2400.

As a lifelong ND resident, a Homeschool graduate, and now a Homeschool father, I stand opposed to this bill for one simple reason: the right of a parent to educate their children without government intervention or regulation.

Senate bill 2400 would include homeschooled students as being eligible to receive an education savings account deposit in the amount of \$500 per year, per student. Having grown up amidst the fight for deregulation of homeschooling in this state, this bill strikes me as a step in the wrong direction.

Any homeschooled student who used this funding to take any course at a participating school would apparently be required to take state required achievement tests in math, reading and science, even if the course being taken was not in one of those categories.

Further, a homeschool parent who applies for an education savings account for their homeschooled child would be requested to fill out an annual survey on a very vague category of "other topics, items, or issues that may indicate the effectiveness of the education savings account program".

While these requirements may seem acceptable to those who wish to receive funding from the state to make their homeschooling efforts more affordable, I believe that it is better for a homeschool parent to not be funded at all, than to be funded with strings attached. While the requirements in this bill may not seem to be excessive, it opens the door to future changes and stricter regulation in order to continue receiving funds.

I would not be opposed to this bill if homeschooled students were excluded from this section entirely, or if it was clearly laid out that any homeschooling parent who chooses not to apply for an education savings account is not in any way subject to any requirements in this chapter.

I respectfully request a Do Not Pass recommendation on this bill as recieved from the Senate, or an ammendment as outlined above.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bornemann
Kintyre, ND