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SCHOOL CHOICE / HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
SB2303 / HB1491

Dear State of North Dakota Education Committee:

My name is Kyle Oetker, and I am from Fargo. My wife, Danielle, and I met at a University that is both a public land grant college, funded by a state, as well as a private college.

Danielle and I have three children. Our kids attended Centennial Elementary, Discovery Middle School, and now they attend three high schools. We have a sophomore at Davies, a sophomore – we have twins – at Moorhead High School, and a junior at Shanley.

We moved our oldest child from Davies to Shanley; because he was not completing his homework, and he was using his cell phone for much of the day. He was struggling in many subjects, including advanced math.

After 6 months at Shanley, his academic performance has greatly improved. He is now earning an A- in AP Calculus. I am grateful that Shanley could help him focus on academics and that is why I traveled to Bismarck today to support school choice.

There is a cost to this change from Davies to Shanley. In addition to the tuition, my son is not allowed to participate in debate, speech, and chess. The State High School Athletic Association regulates all school activities, and specifically excludes kids for one year after a school transfer.

Private schools, like Shanley, provide academic alternatives that fill in the gaps of the school network. State funding should follow the enrollment of the student, rewarding the schools that are improving our overall standard of education. The State of North Dakota Athletic Association should regulate only athletic activities.

Sincerely,



Kyle Oetker