

Testimony opposing public money from going to private schools:

This is in the ND Constitution:

ARTICLE VIII EDUCATION

Section 1. A high degree of intelligence, patriotism, integrity and morality on the part of every voter in a government by the people being necessary in order to insure the continuance of that government and the prosperity and happiness of the people, the legislative assembly shall make provision for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools which shall be open to all children of the state of North Dakota and free from sectarian control. This legislative requirement shall be irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of North Dakota.

I oppose any efforts that will take public dollars from public schools. To do so would hinder the ability of the state to maintain the current public school system. Moreover, many private schools may be run by churches or religious groups and therefore would violate the provision "free from sectarian control". I see a lawsuit coming from more than one direction. Let's not invite trouble.

I, my husband, and children all went to public school. These varied from a large city to a country school graduating under 20 seniors. We did just fine learning the basics 3R but also more or less how to get along with peers and teachers of varied backgrounds. We learned that life isn't always fair or nice or black and white. Rather, it's important to be able to think for oneself, based on the best knowledge available and one's own values but also acknowledge others' lived experiences.

Parents have the choice to homeschool their kids if they have the time, money and/or interest; they also have the right to send them to a private school if available. But my tax money should not be used to subsidize educational entities that are not "open to all children of the state".