

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to SB 2400.

I believe public education is the bedrock of society. Every child deserves the best education possible and by keeping our tax dollars in the public education arena, all children in North Dakota have equal access to the best education North Dakota can offer. When taxpayer dollars are funneled to private schools, the outcome is less money for public schools and I believe our public schools are struggling as it is.

I also believe it is very important to maintain the separation of church and state and I would guess that a lot of the private schools that would receive tax dollars are faith-based. Parents who want their children to have a faith-based education need to be willing to pay for that. I speak from experience as my son attended St. John's School in Wahpeton from pre-K to sixth grade. I knew when I made that decision to enroll him at St. John's that it meant I would have to pay his tuition out of pocket.

I strongly believe our tax dollars belong in the public education system, not private schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.