

I am a parent and a public school teacher. I am writing to urge you to please vote NO on SB2400. This bill threatens the integrity of our public education system. I am strongly against using public taxpayer dollars for private schools. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status.

SB2400 will divert money raised for public education and other public purposes to pay for private school tuition and other “qualified educational expenses.” Most, 68%, of North Dakotans do not approve of using public funds for private tuition.

One might say that this bill is meant to help our North Dakota students’ education. If this bill was meant to truly help all North Dakota children, each child would receive the same funding, regardless of where they are educated, but that is not the case. Private school students will receive significantly more funding than public and homeschooled students.

Our public schools are the foundation of our communities, and instead of diverting resources away from them, we should be investing in smaller class sizes, support staff, mental health resources, and competitive wages for educators.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on this ESA bill and to stand with North Dakota’s students, families, and educators in preserving a strong public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to our state and look forward to your support in keeping public dollars in public schools.

Kathy Houser