

Chairman Heinert and Committee Members,

I am writing to plead with you to vote no on SB2400. As a mother to two children in public school and as current special education teacher, I don't want my tax dollars or public funding to go to private entities that do not have tell us how they used the money.

Currently, public school education has been granted only a 2% increase in funding from the state. With the possibility of losing a significant portion of federal funding also. More students attend public school than private. Please do not take away the funding that is so desperately needed.

Public schools provide equitable quality education for all. Private schools often can choose who comes in and out of their education system. Where would the funding go after a private school admission only to be kicked out at a later time and needs to go back to public school? A mere \$500 per pupil for public education will not justify the \$3500 that is granted to those in private education.

As our legislature has voted no on Universal School Lunches due to inefficiency of cost, I believe that SB2400 is also inefficient and does not benefit most.

I urge you to vote against Senate Bill 2400. As our voice, please lift up public policies that support and invest in and improve our public schools. Our students, their families, and their communities and North Dakota deserve a strong and well-funded public education system that benefits all, not just a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Van Winkle