

Dear Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2400. While I understand the desire to expand educational choices, this bill raises concerns about fiscal responsibility, equity in education funding, and government overreach into homeschooling.

Concerns About Public Fund Allocation

SB 2400 would allocate significant taxpayer dollars to private education through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), potentially diverting much-needed resources from public schools. At a time when public education faces funding challenges, including the inability to provide free school meals to all students, prioritizing subsidies for private education is fiscally irresponsible.

Additionally, the bill proposes a disproportionate distribution of funds, with up to \$3,500 for private school students while only offering a flat \$500 for public school and homeschool students. This structure raises questions about fairness and whether taxpayer money should be used to fund private institutions that do not serve the majority of students.

Homeschooling Should Be Removed from SB 2400

Traditional homeschoolers have long operated independently of government funding, choosing to educate their children without taxpayer support in exchange for educational freedom. By including homeschoolers in SB 2400, this bill introduces a potential gateway for future government oversight and regulation of home education.

Historically, when government funding enters a space, regulations follow. Many homeschooling families fear that accepting ESA funds, even if voluntary, could lead to mandates on curricula, standardized testing, or other requirements that undermine the very autonomy that makes homeschooling successful. To preserve educational freedom, I urge the committee to **amend SB 2400 to remove traditional homeschoolers from the bill.**

Lack of Accountability for ESA Funds

Private schools and vendors receiving ESA funds are not subject to the same transparency and accountability measures as public schools. Without clear oversight, there is a risk of misuse of public funds with little recourse for taxpayers. Any legislation involving public money should ensure strong accountability measures, which SB 2400 currently lacks.

Conclusion

While school choice is an important discussion, it should not come at the expense of public school funding, nor should it introduce unnecessary government entanglement into

homeschooling. I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 2400 in its current form and amend it to exclude traditional homeschoolers.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Clinger

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