

Good morning,

I oppose SB 2400.

As a homeschool mom of five children for the past eleven years, I have enjoyed the liberty to educate my children in ways and at a pace that suits each of them individually. I do not take this liberty lightly. I understand that homeschooling was not legal in North Dakota a few short decades ago. My concern is that if homeschoolers are categorized side by side with students who accept ESA funds, government accountability measures tied to that money will encroach on the education liberties my family and many others enjoy in homeschooling.

As an example, I choose not to test my students when they are young. One child of mine has dyslexia and was unable to read until age eleven. He would have failed any standard reading test based on grade or age. At age fourteen, he now reads for pleasure and listens to books that are at a college reading level. He does not know he has dyslexia. I chose not to tell him so he would not think of himself as unable to do the hard work of learning to read, and more importantly to me, to enjoy reading. Therefore, I value the liberty to make the choice of opting out of standardized testing to allow my students to progress with learning at their own pace.

What do standardized tests have to do with SB 2400? Allocated government funds should have accountability measures. If ESA funds are taken by students, the government must access the use of those funds in some way. As standardized tests have long been a measure of students' success in learning, it seems inevitable that in the future, testing will be required for students accepting ESA funds. If traditional homeschoolers are categorized with public or non-public students, it is not a stretch to see that soon testing will be required of homeschool students as well.

Traditional homeschoolers must remain separate from students learning in public or non-public educational programs, otherwise, the liberty we now enjoy will begin to shrink.

Sincerely,

Anna Letvin