

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2400

Submitted by Michelle Fuller, Principal of Bob Callies Elementary School, Garrison, North Dakota

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Michelle Fuller, and I am the principal of Bob Callies Elementary School in rural North Dakota. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 2400, which would establish an education savings account (ESA) program, diverting critical funds away from our public schools.

North Dakota already provides families with school choice through open enrollment and home-schooling options. Most rural areas of our state, such as mine, do not offer private options for education. Our state ensures that parents have the ability to choose the best educational path for their children without undermining public education. House Bill 1540 is unnecessary and would only weaken the public schools that serve the vast majority of students by diverting resources from public schools to private schools that serve a minority of North Dakota students.

Rural schools like ours operate with limited resources, yet we remain committed to serving every child in our community. Redirecting public funds to private entities with little oversight will harm our ability to provide quality education, retain teachers, and offer essential services. Rather than diverting resources, we should invest in strengthening our public schools.

I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 2400 to protect the integrity of North Dakota's public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fuller

Principal, [Your School]

[Your Town], North Dakota