

As a concerned citizen, parent, and advocate for equitable education, I am opposed to ND Bill SB 2400. I believe that public schools play a crucial role in our society and should remain accessible to all not just the rich.

If this bill passes it will be a detriment to our state as well as contributing to the downfall of the United States of America.

*****1. Equity and Access: ** Public schools serve as a vital foundation for a fair and equitable education system.***

They are designed to provide every child, regardless of their background, with access to quality education. Privatizing schools threatens this principle by creating a system where only those who can afford it can access

the best resources, teachers, and facilities. This will deepen the divide between affluent and low-income communities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and limiting opportunities for many students.

*****2. Accountability and Oversight: ** Public schools are subject to rigorous standards, oversight, and accountability measures. They are governed by elected officials and are required to adhere to state and federal***

education laws. Privatization could lead to a lack of transparency and accountability, as private institutions are

often driven by profit rather than the educational needs of students. This could result in a decline in the quality of

education, as the focus shifts from student success to financial gain.

*****3. Community and Belonging: ** Public schools are community hubs that foster a sense of belonging and citizenship. They bring together students from diverse backgrounds, teaching them to appreciate differences and work collaboratively. Privatization risks fragmenting our communities and eroding the social fabric that public schools help to build. A strong public school system encourages civic engagement and prepares students not just for jobs, but for active participation in democracy.***

*****4. Teacher Support and Retention: ** Public schools attract dedicated educators who are committed to teaching and nurturing our children. Privatization can lead to lower salaries, reduced benefits, and less job security, making it difficult to retain qualified teachers. A stable and experienced teaching staff is essential for***

student success, and public schools are better positioned to provide the support and resources teachers need

to thrive.

*****5. Holistic Education: ** Public schools often offer a well-rounded education that includes not only academics***

but also, arts, sports, and extracurricular activities. Privatization may lead to a narrow focus on standardized testing and profit-driven curricula, neglecting the holistic development of students. Our children deserve an education that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and emotional well-being.

Public schools are essential to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their circumstances. Please do not segregate our schools and return our country to an even more racist state. I urge you to consider the long-term implications of privatizing our education system. Stop making the good people of North Dakota fight for their basic rights under our constitution so you don't have to fight the billionaires in the White House. Make the rich pay their fair share and we can stop having these conversations. Together we can make America a place we can be proud of again.