

Mr. Speaker and members of the committee,

My name is Wendi Johnston. My husband, Dan, and I have been homeschooling our eight children from the very beginning. Three have already graduated, and another is set to graduate this May.

When we started homeschooling 20 years ago, we had little access to a supportive homeschool community. At that time, the internet was not as prevalent, making it difficult to research curriculum options. Despite these challenges, we found a way—because homeschooling is a commitment we chose to undertake as parents.

Today, homeschooling resources are more abundant than ever. Families can find high-quality curricula at a wide range of price points, including excellent options available for free. The growing homeschooling community also provides invaluable support, making it easier than ever for parents to educate their children successfully.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on SB 2400. The North Dakota Constitution mandates that the state provide a public education, but homeschooling is a parental choice—not a government obligation. Parents who choose to homeschool do so because they believe it is the best path for their children, and with that choice comes the responsibility of providing curriculum and resources without reliance on state funding. Furthermore, accepting state funds could open the door to increased regulation and government oversight, which could ultimately infringe on the freedoms that make homeschooling so effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.