

Subject: Senate Bill 2400

Thank you, Mr./Mrs. Chair for the opportunity to speak on SB 2400. My name is Jackson Ingram, a homeschooled senior in high school who will be attending University of Mary in the fall.

Please consider amending this bill to include a distinction between those who receive ESA funding and those who reject ESA funding. This amendment is needed because putting homeschoolers under the same regulations as others in public/private schools will limit the more personal educational freedom some people chose homeschooling for. As evidenced by other states, similar bills providing educational funding that do not have this amendment in place have stricter regulations against homeschoolers.

The opportunities I have been given from being a homeschooler have helped push me to become who I am today. Some of the opportunities I have been able to participate in are volunteering at the Salvation Army, White Cross, and Ministry at the Margins.

I was able to personalize my education to my specific needs, and made an above average score on the ACT. If regulations and check-ups become more prevalent due to government funding, we will lose multiple opportunities and personalized education.

Many homeschoolers, myself included, have benefited from the increased flexibility homeschooling provides. For myself it has allowed me to continue my schooling no matter what life has in store. Last year, I was diagnosed with both Multiple Sclerosis and appendicitis, but because of the flexibility of my curriculum and schedule, I was able to recover without worrying about being behind in school. Without the current flexibility homeschooling provides, I would still be behind in my school work.

I urge you to provide the necessary amendment to this bill, separating the ones who choose to accept ESA funding, and those who opt out of it, to provide protection to the rights of homeschoolers. Thank you for your time.