

Testimony in Opposition to SB2400 in Reference to Education Savings Account by Bob Joerger,
Mayville, ND

To The House Education Committee:

I am in opposition to this bill on many facets that promote money to families for education. However, the “elephant in the room” is the consequences and outcomes that follow these dollars.

I can understand there will be necessary accountability in the distribution of these funds, because these are taxpayer -funded grant dollars. This will create more government state employees necessary to operate, oversee and justify dollars spent on this program. Creation of this program and expenses will be at the lowest at the onset of the program and thereafter- expenses will inflate to all residents of ND. I am in favor of lower government costs and expenses.

My wife and I, know and love our children the best and we take it very seriously in seeing they reach their best educational outcome that coincides with their God- given interests, gifts and talents. We need the freedom to be able to do whatever type of education that fulfills each child to the fullest without any “strings attached”.

This bill has testing requirements initially and opens the door for future requirements designated by future individuals with whatever purpose they desire. We do not see benefits from required testing written by people that decide the topic areas to test along with the “flavor of the day” social norms they want to express in the test questions. I am in opposition of additional testing.

One idea as an alternative to this ESA funding is to provide lower taxes across the state to each taxpayer and let each of us determine what to do with our own dollars. This can be done without hiring additional people and forever increasing costs with this program.

So, in conclusion, I would like this bill to be defeated as I see this as the best outcome for all residents of ND. If the majority of the committees wishes is to support the existing bill, I would like you to support an amendment that would exclude home education students from this bill. I could then, see a win-win compromise for all affected people with this outcome.

Thank you for listening to my testimony,

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Joerger

Mayville, ND