

The saying goes, "nothing in life is free," which is while I ask you to OPPOSE SB2400. Take one look into the testimonies from people working in the school system for my reasoning: they are clamoring over the budget and "accountability" of funds. This bill would be a nightmare for homeschooling families.

I'll just use a few examples from already submitted testimonies for SB2400 - to illustrate why this would be setting up families to co-school with the government (**emphasis added**). Note: these three individuals also oppose this bill but for very different reasons than mine.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Superintendent, Bismarck Public Schools: "I believe it is unwise and potentially unconstitutional to use publicly collected tax dollars to fund non-public schools directly, **without sufficient accountability measures in place.**"

Mike Bitz, Superintendent, Mandan Public Schools: "**If you approve this bill, please put guardrails in place to ensure full accountability for these dollars.** The taxpayers of ND deserve this."

Beth Slette, Superintendent, West Fargo Public Schools: "We cannot have two sets of rules when it comes to educating our children. **Public money comes with responsibility.**"

Homeschooling families have been able to successfully educate their children with relative freedom in our state, because they aren't asking for a handout. I think it's easy to see that if this is passed there will be a HUGE push for regulations (as illustrated above.) Families are homeschooling in the first place to get out of a broken education system and to provide their children with a high quality education that meets their child's individual needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Oppose SB2400. IF this bill passes, PLEASE support the amendment that homeschooling families are able opt out of any government assistance.

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