

House Education Committee
March 18th, 2025 SB 2400
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Heinert and the members of the House Education Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on SB 2400.

I would like to be honest. I do not hate what this bill does. I do not hate that this bill appears to possibly benefit so many families with youth, regardless if they’re looking at public or private education. I would even offer that right now, this bill would likely greatly benefit our families and students. I am a fan of any money going to families and youth. I did not testify against it originally for these reasons.

I would also say that in isolation this bill is a net good. Our families need relief and short of the school meals, this gives it. Yet, there is a fundamental reason why despite all of that, I must oppose it. And I oppose it because it functions exactly like a hostile business takeover and is something that on reflection has the smell of being too good to be true. What’s the catch one might ask and we’ll be told there isn’t one. Well, that’s red flags everywhere.

So, here is how this will work.

It is like a business starting shop in a town. This business is a franchise supported by a mega corporation with access to very large amounts of resources. This business can afford to operate at a loss and keep prices extremely low for a couple of years. Because of this, it starts to get a bigger customer base, taking away from the local businesses and ma and pa stores in a town who can’t compete.

One by one, those smaller operations close, until the only name in the town is that major company. And now that it doesn’t have competition, it can raise its prices to anything it wants.

I think to understand this is to understand how these efforts are undermining and will eventually privatize public education into something that is not to the benefit of our communities or our youth. This deal looks too good to be true and it is. It very slowly takes kids out of public education, reduces the investment public education gets, and the people who are working in it.

To follow this effort over the years, it will just make more and more sense to fund private education, which will have more students anyways, and eventually abandon our state system. And then suddenly our taxpayer dollars aren’t going into our communities, they’re not benefiting our kids, they’re not in control of our voters, they’re funneled into private companies who care about profit over people.

This is why I urge you to give this a “Do Not Pass.” Public education is the bedrock of our society and essential for all kids to pursue education, grow, learn, and become who they want to be in life.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler