



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2241

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Beard and honorable members of the Senate Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2241 and respectfully requests that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

North Dakota is one of five states that does not yet offer charter schools. The very first charter school opened in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1992¹ and now 45 states offer them to their citizens with nationwide enrollment at 3.7 million students as of Fall 2021.² Because charter schools are by definition public schools according to the National Charter School Resource Center and must remain tuition-free³, they have surged in popularity.

Educational options are in high demand nationwide as parents seek out the best opportunities for their children. Charter schools offer innovative and specialized educational programs tailored to the needs of specific student populations, which provide more choices for families. Charter schools have greater curriculum flexibility than standard public schools and can emphasize areas like math and science, classical education, fine arts, or language immersion. We support the creation of charter schools in North Dakota, as it gives families more options as they consider the best educational fit for their children and circumstances.

This bill mentions that North Dakota charter schools may charge tuition. We recommend that wording be amended out of this bill, as charter schools are tuition-free by definition, as noted above. In the 45 states that currently offer charter schools, none charge tuition for K-12 enrollment.

For the above reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you please vote Senate Bill 2241 out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation, with the suggested amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

¹ <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/seven-facts-about-charter-schools/>

² <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgb/public-charter-enrollment>

³ <https://charterschoolcenter.ed.gov/what-charter-school>