

To: Senate Education Committee Members

From: Scott R. Jensen

Senior Advisor to the American Federation for Children

Re: Support for SB 2241

Date: February 3, 2025

On behalf of the American Federation for Children, the nation's largest school choice organization, I would like to express our support for SB 2241 which would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to authorize charter schools in the state of North Dakota.

As all parents and teachers know, even children in the same family can have very different learning styles. That is why we believe the children of North Dakota deserve a wide variety of publicly funded educational opportunities. Unfortunately, North Dakota is one of three states without public charter schools or private school choice.

SB 2241 is a well-designed bill that would give the children of this state new innovative public school options which could be crafted to meet the needs and interests of students. In neighboring states, students have the option to attend a diverse range of charter schools focused on the aviation industry, the Lakota language and culture, classical education, and computer sciences and engineering. Charter schools can and do serve both urban and rural students in these states.

The children of North Dakota should be given the education freedom available to students in almost every other state in the union. The teachers of North Dakota should be given the chance to design schools that will meet the needs of their community and inspire a passion for learning in their students. Please pass SB 2241.