

# Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 2295 – Direct Funding for Nonpublic Schools

Submitted by Christopher Hansen  
District 16 Resident & Parent  
JPII Catholic Schools

Hello Senate Education Committee,

My name is Christopher Hansen, and I live in District 16. I am a proud parent who has chosen to enroll my children in JPII Catholic Schools because I believe in providing them with a strong, values-based education in a safe and structured learning environment.

I am here today to express my strong support for Senate Bill No. 2295, but I also support all school choice legislation that upholds parental autonomy and the right to provide the best education for our children. I support SB 2295 because it ensures that a portion of the state's per-student funding follows the child, rather than being restricted to the public school system. This would provide 75% of the state's per-student cost to private and home-educated students, helping families afford quality education.

My family has experienced firsthand the challenges of affording tuition for our daughters' Catholic education. We have cut expenses everywhere possible to ensure our children receive the education they deserve. We made the choice to move them to private school after seeing a lack of accountability, safety concerns, and declining academic standards in public schools. Our son graduated from a public school, and throughout his time there, we saw troubling trends—including school lockdowns due to fights, legal issues involving educators, and teachers more focused on being students' friends rather than mentors.

SB 2295 would provide much-needed financial relief to families like mine, allowing us—and many others—to continue making the best educational choices without an overwhelming financial burden. School choice should not be limited to families who can afford it; every parent deserves access to state funding that prioritizes their child's educational success.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2295 to support parental rights and true educational choice in North Dakota.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and for your time on Senate Bill 2295.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Hansen