

When voting on this bill, please keep in mind the profound impact private schools have not only on our children but on the communities in which they serve and they are doing this with very little money from the government.

I can see how the public schools would be threatened by this bill but my question is, why are they receiving funds for children they are not educating? In our community of Williams County, they are receiving these funds and still don't have all the resources they need to educate our children, children are denied access to special education services, then struggle to find teachers (I understand this is a large scale problem) and cannot find substitute teachers or paras to meet the demands of the system they are running. They have more money than they are technically supposed to receive- imagine if they had to educate the hundreds of students who choose to go to the private schools in Williams county- it wouldn't work! Continuing to give this money to the school district won't fix the problem because it isn't as simple as a lack of money, it's a mismanagement. So why continue to throw money at them for children they aren't serving?

Our private school recently lost their funding for speech services from the government and somehow, they made it work for our children to continue to receive the service- because they know it would be detrimental to their education to lose this service. Money given to the schools who are educating the students who choose not to go to public schools will have a greater impact on their education because these schools acknowledge the needs of the students and make sacrifices to meet those needs.

I urge you to think outside of the box and consider this change in how our state money is distributed among the schools. We aren't asking for money that doesn't belong in our schools, I understand choosing private school is an option and that choice comes with private school tuition, but the tax dollars allotted for these children could certainly follow them, after all, it's about the kids right?