

Kristy Rose
6725 Apple Creek Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
kristywrose@gmail.com

ND Legislature
69th Assembly

RE: SB 2303/ HB 1450

I strongly oppose SB 2303/HB 1540 and education savings account programs for these reasons:

- 1- ESAs increase government spending. States that have passed ESAs are now “in the red” and spending millions of dollars more than projected and not seeing the results they wanted in educational outcomes.
- 2- ESAs limit educational freedom. The guy writing the check makes the decisions. Parents choose private school and home education because they want to make the decisions in their children's education. ESAs come with government strings that cost the families and schools freedom as much as they cost the government time and money.
- 3- They don't expand choice. In states with ESAs most of the families using ESAs were already enrolled in private schools. In Iowa, 66% of ESAs were for those already enrolled in private school and only 13% transitioned from public schools. In Arizona, that percentage is 75% . Many submitting support for these bills are also already private school parents.
- 4- ESAs as put forth in these two bills is a misnomer. Parents aren't contributing, they're just receiving money from the state so they won't have to pay (as much) for their choices. A savings account requires someone to actually save, put away, store up money for an expense. The accounts suggested in these bills are simply vouchers/grants.

My parents chose private school for me and my sister and I am forever grateful that they did. But they chose it at their own expense and they fought against vouchers because they didn't want the government paying for their choice.

My husband and I chose to homeschool our kids. We, like a majority of our homeschooling friends, believe the benefit and the strength of home education lies in parent-funded education. When you pay for something – with money and with sacrifice – you are committed to it in a way that a freebie doesn't allow.

As president of North Dakota's largest homeschool support group, Tricity Home Educators Association, which serves more than 150 homeschooling families in the Bismarck-Mandan-Lincoln area, what I hear mostly from homeschoolers is that they don't want government or tax payer money for the educational choice they've made whether it's an ESA, a voucher, state aid, or some other buzzword pretending to be “school choice”. They want freedom and freedom comes with a cost they are willing to pay with their checkbooks.

Please vote no on SB 2303 and HB 1540.

Sincerely,
Kristy Rose