

Dear Committee:

I write today to urge you to oppose any legislation that promotes ESAs, vouchers, or “school choice”.

These are plans that will take money that could (and should) otherwise be used to improve our public schools for all students. ESAs and vouchers would take taxpayer money and give it to families who choose to send their kids to schools that can (and do) deny students admission, they take money from the rural taxpayer and redistribute it to areas where private schools are located, and they duplicate services that already exist in many of our communities. They aren’t required to tell the public about what they would be doing with public money. These plans are rife with double-standards and lack transparency and accountability.

I think about people like my family who lives in rural ND. They don’t have these options and they will end up subsidizing a group that doesn’t need it. They were encouraged to help build up rural main streets, but many legislators don’t seem to appreciate that in the ways they should. They don’t want these bills.

The people of ND stand strongly with public education and against these plans. But what does it mean that every advertisement seen on social media and television about ESAs, vouchers, and school choice are funded from an out of state interests? It means North Dakotans aren’t asking for this.

Please vote in opposition to these bills.

Thank you,

Cody Mickelson  
Jamestown, ND