

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

My name is Zach Raknerud of Minot. I am writing to urge a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on SB 2400. North Dakota has a long and proud history of supporting our students in the public school system. As other states have experimented with sending public dollars to non-public school tuition, North Dakota has resisted that temptation. Our schools have been made better by that choice. Our state has many extremely rural communities supported by our public schools. SB 2400 would put that commitment at risk.

As you know, we have limited resources in the state budget. Each dollar committed away from our public schools' mission is a vital resource that could be removed altogether. Indeed, there are ways we should support our families with expenses that come from an excellent education. Still, we must be highly cautious when leaping to allow public dollars to go directly to the tuition of non-public schools. This is an extremely serious line to cross for our state, and I urge caution to this committee in considering the impacts such a decision would have.

While families in our larger cities with access to private schools may be asking you to support this legislation, we must remember this is not afforded to vast areas of our sprawling state. Having grown up in Northwood, which shares a county with Grand Forks, I am deeply concerned about legislation like this and how it would impact our rural schools, especially those that share funding channels with districts that would send our tax dollars to private school tuition. Please vote to give SB 2400 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Respectfully,
Zach Raknerud
Minot, ND