

Senate Bill 2400  
Senate Education Committee - Sen. Todd Beard, Chair  
February 5, 2025  
Testimony in Opposition to SB 2400

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a parent and resident of Valley City, ND. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2400.

At present, all 50 states are confronted with a presidential administration and a cabal of billionaires apparently committed to dismantling public education as we have known it. However, we in North Dakota need not concede defeat, because the public strongly rejects such an outcome. Overwhelmingly, we oppose taking public funds for private schooling.

If North Dakota voters are allowed to vote on a ballot measure calling for tax dollars to pay for private schooling, there is every reason to believe they/we will reject such a measure. A professional poll conducted last December has already revealed that fully 68 percent of ND voters oppose diverting public money to pay for tuition in privately-owned and operated schools. (The same poll also shows that 67 percent do support increased public-school spending.) [<https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2025/01/poll-highlights-residents-legislative-expectations/>]

It is also instructive to note that voters in three other states expressed similar sentiments in the General Election just three months ago. "Voters in Colorado, Kentucky and Nebraska ...rejected ballot measures that would have instituted or expanded state support for parents to send their kids to private schools." [<https://northdakotamonitor.com/2024/11/16/3-states-blunt-school-choice-momentum/>]

SB 2400 does propose to divert public money--a great deal of it, in fact--to support private schools. Therefore, as part of that 68 percent, I am offering this testimony to call on this committee to either reject SB 2400, or completely overhaul it by removing any provisions for public funds to support the use of Education Savings Accounts for private schooling.

Fortunately, our state's public school system is an excellent one that is already geared-up to meet the challenges and requirements represented in the recent Presidential Executive Order. Working completely within our system of public schools, we can adopt a comprehensive plan providing all the required innovations and educational-choice initiatives referenced on Monday by State Supt. Baesler. Substantive, detailed testimonies heard by this committee in recent days have highlighted the innumerable educational-choice innovations already initiated within ND's network of public schools.

Chairman Beard and Committee Members, I urge you to reject any undermining of our public schools, and give SB 2400 a "Do Not Pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Vicki Voldal Rosenau  
District 24