



North Dakota Home School Association

Serving Home Educators since 1985

SB 2400

No

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I write on behalf of The North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) and once again reiterate we are **fundamentally opposed to public dollars funding home education.**

I do want to thank Senator Axtman for all the work she has done on this bill as well as meeting with me before the session with some of her thoughts. I do wish I could have seen the draft of the bill before it was filed and maybe could have given further input on our association's stance.

If the legislature truly wants to provide school choice in North Dakota I would encourage adding more options such as passing **SB 2241** which would allow for public charter schools. I would also encourage the committee to look at **HB 1472** dealing with the establishment of microschools. **These bills represent true choice.**

Homeschooling is a relatively inexpensive education option. Over my years of home educating my four children I never spent more than \$500 total unless one was enrolled in a dual credit college course. Granted, I have been done for awhile, but a lot of home school curriculum is in the form of non-consumables and so is used with subsequent children. Many of our state homeschool support groups have curriculum lending libraries and homeschoolers are regular patrons of our state's public libraries.

The NDHSA is the only statewide homeschool association and is responsible for all of the bills since 1985 which granted freedom to homeschool in our great state. It was not that many years ago that it was illegal. It would seem to be moving backward if we gave up some of those hard won freedoms just for a bit of help from the Government.

I am not sure if legislators are wanting to include home educators in these ESA bills to make them more equitable, but I do know it is frustrating every time we do bring a bill forward, and then hear that homeschoolers are always asking for money. Part of our strength has always been in the fact that we have never asked for a "piece of the pie."

Our fears of possible consequences of this bill:

-Inflated curriculum and services costs. Even if parents choose not to "opt in", these programs tend to drive the cost of curriculum and service up affecting all homeschoolers.