



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee
SB 2400
February 5, 2024**

Chairman Beard and members of the Committee, I am Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of ND United. I rise today in opposition to SB 2400 and to encourage the Senate Education committee to issue a do not pass recommendation for this proposed legislation.

Members of the Committee, SB 2400 contains some very good ideas that deserve to be considered. ND United and, according to a recent survey, 76% of North Dakotans favor a mechanism by which parents with school aged children can access public dollars to enhance educational experiences like mental or behavioral health assistance, educational summer camps like the excellent International Music Camp, standardized test fees, education materials and services for students with disabilities, and other qualified educational expenses and experiences. If this were a stand-alone bill with a dedicated funding source, ND United would be in strong support.

Unfortunately, in addition to the exceptionally good things, SB 2400 allows for spending dollars raised for public education and other public purposes on private school tuition. We have seen what happens to public school finances in other states when public money is diverted to private schools. ND United has historically opposed voucher bills like SB 2400 that provide public funds for private school tuition because it makes it more difficult for North Dakota's great public schools to deliver on our promise and obligation to educate every child that walks, runs, rolls, or is carried through our schoolhouse doors.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation for SB 2400.