

I have been an educator for 24 years in a public-school system. I have chosen to be in public education versus private for one specific purpose: public school systems teach the students who come through our doors. We do not exclude students based on any measure, specifically the measure of money. I love the fact that we provide an inclusive environment for ALL our students. I believe that if public money is utilized to significantly fund private education that all students should have the opportunity to access the programs without discrimination.

I am also concerned that this bill creates disparity in regards to accountability. Utilizing public funds as an endowment for private school students cannot be an acceptable practice. If private schools want public monies to support their cause, private schools need to have the same accountability measure as public schools. Private schools have the ability to determine the students they serve.

This bill would provide a larger gap in affordable services. The claim that students can go to a different school that supports their academic needs has the potential to widen the gap. If private schools are provided public funding without accountability, what stops them from taking the \$3,000 and raising tuition costs making it impossible for families to have access to the education some legislatures feel is superior. This bill seems to support those who are currently enrolled in private school, and little funding seems to be available for new students. I sense this bill sets up the opposite actions of the original intent. This bill just feels like a way to use public funds to support privatized education, this bill just feels wrong.

I also believe that this bill undermines public education by underfunding public schools. I understand that some viewpoints are that this is new money, but we all know that money toward education, no matter what you want to label it, is money for education. I feel that the disparity of the amount of money provided to a small private school student population does not fairly provide for a free and public education. Century code provides for a free, open, and accessible education, this bill attacks each element.

North Dakota's public-school systems are among the best in the nation and world; I am a proud member of public schools who accept the whole student. Simply put, this bill is not good for education.

Respectfully,

Ryan Moser