

Dear Senate Committee,

My name is Kacie Dorn and I am writing this testimony to express my opposition to SB 2295 and any and all legislation promoting Educational Savings Accounts, voucher programs, or any programs that divert public funds to privatized education.

I have lived in North Dakota my entire life and have completed various levels of education in this state, including elementary school, middle school, high school, university, and graduate school, all in public schools. Additionally, I am the daughter of two public school teachers. My experiences have shown me firsthand how successful public schools can be for children of all backgrounds, but public schools MUST receive appropriate funds to achieve this success.

The use of public funds to support private school tuition and homeschooling is not in the best interest of North Dakota's children. Private schools can reject students based on disability or socioeconomic status, financially supporting these institutions with government funds sends a clear message: the government in this state does not prioritize public education. Public dollars should be used to strengthen our public schools which provide equal opportunity for all children, not to subsidize private institutions that serve only a few.

Parents have a choice to send their children to private schools or pursue homeschooling, no one is forcing them to make this decision. The taxpayers in this state should not be forced to fund these decisions.

Sincerely,

Kacie Dorn

District 22