

Rachel Jorgensen

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2550

BILL DESCRIPTION: Establishing the student empowerment act to provide education savings accounts for certain students to attend participating private schools.

PROPONENT, OPPOSE, or NEUTRAL: OPPOSE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY:

As a parent who is very involved in our Title 1 neighborhood school, I strongly oppose HB 2550. Rather than easing the burden on families choosing private education, I think that our time is better spent easing the burden on children who only have the option of public education. Let's fully fund our schools. Bottom line. Private education can be a fine option and serve some families incredibly well. But here's the rub—we all know that this bill is to benefit families that will choose private education regardless of their ability to have a special savings account. This bill isn't provision for the least of these. This bill is to provide a way for families choosing private a financial break. Families who are truly struggling have quite a few more barriers between them and a private education. We can do better than this. We need to fully fund our schools! As a parent and volunteer, I have witnessed our learning community serve kids in amazing ways—I have seen kiddos absolutely thrive. Let's steward our influence to serve not just our selves and our own, but the least of these in our community. As a momma, I want to stand up and say that I oppose HB 2550. Not because I oppose private education—but because I believe that diverting resources from kiddos who need it to families who don't is wrong.