

To the House Education Policy and Administration Committee:

My name is Adam Whittier, and I am from Sunapee, NH. I am writing to you today in steadfast opposition to HB 748. I urge you to vote against this bill.

As a taxpayer, I have the right to be involved with the operation of public schools in my community. If I have questions or concerns, I can attend school-board meetings to share my input; I can even run for a seat on the board if I so choose. Additionally, I know that the schools are accountable, both to my town and to the state — there are standards, regulations, and laws they must follow in order to provide a safe, equitable, and adequate education for the children of our community. Disabled children must receive accommodations, and teachers must meet minimum requirements of competency and licensure. That's not to say that the schools will be perfect, or that I'll agree with everything taught. But it *does* mean that I, and the community, have input; and that if issues arise, there are procedures and safeguards in place. Accountability is a built-in feature of public education *because it is public*.

Under HB 748, I would have no way to know, and have no say over, how private schools or home-schools are using my money. What do they teach? What materials do they use? How qualified are the tutors and other providers they pay with the vouchers? How do they differentiate instruction? How do they accommodate disabled students?

It is insulting and ridiculous to expect New Hampshire taxpayers to fork over even *more* money to the voucher program when there is no accountability for the program as it currently exists. I think it's more than reasonable to want this — for the sake of our students' educations, as well as for the sake of money well-spent.

I demand that you, as our elected representatives, cease this continued and misguided assault on New Hampshire's public education and its funding. This is just another thinly-veiled attempt to cripple and defund our state's public schools. It's bullshit, and it needs to stop.

With routine embarrassment on your behalf,

Adam Whittier
Sunapee, NH