

Testimony of Danielle and Michael Wylie regarding NH HB 751  
For the Committee's consideration:

We support statewide open enrollment for public schools.

We are residents of Concord, NH and have 2 children (ages 12 and 2). Danielle is a trained educator with a background in Science (Biochemistry) and 5 years of teaching experience in Canada. Michael has a Ph.D in Electrical Engineering and has taught at the University/College level.

Our older son went to 3 different elementary schools in 2 states; we volunteered at all of them. Danielle was a member of the School Site Council, the PTA, and the PTO. Last year, she received the Champion of Children Award from the Concord School District. Our son is very intelligent and curious; he thrived in some school environments and struggled in others. This year, we have chosen to homeschool, and it's been a really positive experience for our family. We are blessed to have a parent at home and the freedom to make that choice. Not all NH families have that choice though. This bill has the potential to give every NH family the opportunity to consider whether their local school is the best choice for their family as well as incentivizing schools to pursue excellence.

**I. Bill HB 751 appeals to common sense.**

We are zoned for the Concord School District, but Merrimack Valley High School is walking distance from our house. Having the choice to enroll children in a school that is closer to home or work can ease the burden of transportation on families and make volunteering and attending school events or extracurricular activities more accessible.

**II. Bill HB 751 incentivizes competition and competency.**

School boards and administrators will have to prioritize quality education and positive experiences for students and families in order to retain students in their district.

**III. Bill HB 751 promotes equality and gives parents a voice.**

Many families cannot even consider whether the local public school is meeting the needs of their child because they do not have the resources to consider alternatives like private schools or homeschooling. This bill levels the playing ground for low-income families that want to choose what kind of education their child receives.

**IV. Bill HB 751 provides opportunity for schools to differentiate in areas of expertise.**

Schools will have the opportunity to pursue a reputation for excelling in areas of study like science, agriculture, trades, fine arts, history, sports, or engineering, and use these specialties to attract students from all over the state. Interested students could learn from expert educators in fields that they are interested in with peers that share their passions. Los Angeles has a similar Magnet School program that was originally designed to reduce racial tensions by bringing students with similar interests together from different neighborhoods. Schools may also choose to create programs that specialize in learning disabilities or special needs by concentrating their resources and adopting best practices in these areas.