

As an advocate for diverse educational opportunities, I am deeply concerned about Governor Walz's recent budget draft, which targets private schools and homeschoolers. This proposal undermines the essential principle of educational choice, a cornerstone that allows families to select the best learning environment for their children.

Private schools provide unique advantages, including specialized programs, smaller class sizes, and varied educational philosophies tailored to individual student needs. Families opt for homeschooling and charter schools for similar reasons—parents know their children best and are empowered to make decisions that they believe will benefit them the most.

Education should focus on opportunity and empowerment, not limitations. Every resident deserves access to a range of educational pathways. Instead of punishing those who seek alternatives to the traditional public school system, we should support them. It's essential to recognize that all children, whether they attend traditional public schools or alternative options, are part of their local independent school district.

The proposed budget cut of 0.4% directly impacts our children and leaves them behind. Ask yourself why these children deserve less?

Let us advocate for policies that promote, rather than diminish, educational choice in our schools, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

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