

Submitter: Ashley Thrasher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4161

I am opposed to HB 4161 for the following reasons:

"Section 4.1(1)(a) The person receives written consent to attend the school for the district school board where the school is located." This will lead many students and families without the ability to attend a school of their choosing, as the district/school board will ultimately choose the student (written consent by the Board/district) vs. the student choosing the school.

"Section 7. 1(A)(B) Deposit in an education savings account designated for the student for which the request is made an amount that is equal to 80 percent of the amount that the student's resident school district would have received for the student; and (B) Transfer to the student's resident school district an amount that is equal to 20 percent of the amount that the student's resident school district would have received for the student." There is no mention that the Education Savings Account funds could not be used towards private school, homeschooling, private tutoring or even a cruise to the Bahamas as long as it was "educationally based". This leaves the public school system with only 20% per lost student. School choice has been tried in several states and the results are funding shortfalls, (in AZ, close to \$400 million). ESA's are a scam and there is plenty of evidence of this across the country. The most at-risk or special needs students and rural communities that rely on the district as the biggest employer are the ones left behind.