

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of New Mexico students, I strongly urge you to **vote YES** on SB 234, the Lottery for Home School Students bill. For too long, New Mexico students whose parents have chosen home schooling have been left out of the opportunity provided by the lottery scholarship. Parents and students choose home schooling for a variety of reasons, often because they feel that it offers a better education than the public school system. Excluding these students from the scholarship program ignores their dedication to gaining a good education and unfairly discriminates against those for whom public school is simply not the right option. SB 234 remedies this problem by opening the opportunity to all New Mexico graduates.

While the scholarship program should not be subsidized through the general fund, there is no reason that students outside the public schools should be denied access to the program as it exists. Please vote yes on SB 234.



Frank Pagurko III