

TO: Board of Selectman Town of Warner
FROM: Charles Albano – Concerned Citizen

January 5, 2026

The attached citizen's petition is being submitted as concerns grow around the state regarding the Education Freedom Account (EFA).

The EFA known generically as School Vouchers, will cost the Kearsarge Regional School District over **\$600,000** in this year's school budget, as funds that would have been sent to the school district will be used pay for school vouchers. The towns within the district will need to raise these additional funds to keep the budget level. Reallocation of state funding is a threat to public education, and will increase our taxes.

When a student switches from public school to the voucher program, the state contribution to public education is diverted from the local school to the Children's Scholarship Fund, a New York based organization that manages New Hampshire's EFA program. The Children's Scholarship Fund reimburses families for eligible expenses, including private and religious education schools, home schooling expenses, educational supplies, transportation, tutoring, and other expenses such as horseback riding, skiing etc. Over 75% of these funds pay for religious education.

Last year over 20 towns in NH submitted citizen's petitions to protest the use of public funding to pay families on average \$5,000 per child who are no longer in public schools.

According to the NH Department of Education, the EFA program in New Hampshire had 10,520 students at the start of the year up from 5,321 last year. This increase occurred after the legislature removed income guidelines.

Funding EFA children redirects over 51 million dollars from the state's education fund, away from public school support to private education.

The following is the Citizens Petition.

Town of Warner

Citizen's Petition:

"Property Taxes for Private Education: A Call for Responsible Use"

"Whereas, taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent and deserve clear, verifiable evidence that it is being spent wisely and delivering results; and

Whereas, taxpayer dollars are being diverted from public schools to private and religious education through Education Freedom Accounts (vouchers), and this shift does not reduce public school expenses, leaving local taxpayers to cover the difference through higher property taxes; and

Whereas, unlike public schools, private education funded by taxpayers through vouchers lacks key accountability measures, such as reporting how funds are used, tracking student performance, ensuring services for students with disabilities, and conducting background checks for staff;

Therefore, we, the voters of Warner, New Hampshire, call on our state elected officials to uphold their duty to fiscal responsibility by rejecting taxpayer funding for private education until we have full accountability, transparency, and a sustainable funding plan that ensures no further strain on public schools or local property taxpayers.

We further direct the Warner Select Board to deliver this warrant article and results in writing to New Hampshire's Governor and members of the State Legislature within thirty days of this vote."

Please consider supporting this Warrant article.

Charlies Albano
Warner, NH