**RAMPANT FALSEHOODS**

**1). This is not a Voucher program.**

*Nearly everyone uses the false voucher terminology &/or makes arguments against this bill based upon guidelines of a Voucher for all system. But this is not a voucher program & the differences between them are important.*

**2).  This is Not Defunding the Schools**

*Many believe that when a child leaves PS, the PS keeps the SSA tax dollars for that child.  As it stands currently as well as under this bill, PS’s do not retain SSA tax dollars when a child leaves anyways. But continues to retain all federal & title monies. Nothing changes here & we are not defunding public schools because we are not taking anything away from a school that they were previously able to keep.*

**HOWEVER, We ARE** now empowering students currently trapped in a system that may not be working for them, to be able to have the means to seek out solutions. This removes the monopolistic force to remain in a public school that may not be working for them due to financial constraints.

**3).  Private Schools don’t have the same restrictions & don’t have to take every child;** is not a valid against the purpose of the bill, which is to provide choice.

*If private schools had the same requirements they wouldn’t be able to be the alternative to the PS. They would be another public school. That does not create choice. They are also not government funded.*

*For current PS families, Only the families who have found an institution & a solution that works for their child & that institution has agreed to help their child, would be applying for the ESA. This bill is not to encourage every child to leave public school.  It is to empower children who could be in a better environment if they had the means. We must start somewhere.*

4). **Not Fair - not enough Private Schools in rural areas-** is taking away the choice of people willing to drive or sacrifice for resolution.

***This bill isn’t about ensuring every child has access to a private school. This bill is about ensuring every child has “access to the means to pursue” a working educational solution for their child.***

*This is where we must start, or we remain stagnant within a one size fits all solution.****This bill is about empowering families to make choices, not empowering private schools****. There are many families willing to make sacrifices to find solutions but simply cannot pursue them due to financial constraints. Family’s will be empowered with newfound ability to use the funds reserved for their child.*

5). **Public dollars shouldn’t be used for private institutions.**

*This is not a voucher bill. Public education dollars are for each child’s education & they are not limited to institutions. When a family applies for & secures an ESA account, they obtain the choice on how to spend it within the approved parameters & this is not exclusive to private schools.  A family could use those funds to pay for a tutor, a math program & then uses the remaining for the private school while they foot the bill for the rest.* ***The beauty of the ESA option is that it allows customized options for a family to pursue an “educational solution” based upon the special needs of their child & their means.***

We’ve already collectively agreed to enact & support a law that all Iowa children must obtain an education & that Iowa will support each child with tax dollars in the amount of $7,598 per year. If the approximately 40,000 private school students decided to start going to PS tomorrow, Iowa would send $7,598 to the PS for each & every one of them.  **This bill says the same thing. It says we will fund every child in Iowa for a K -12 education. The parent gets to decide which school & solution is the best fit for their child.**

There are so many more but for the sake of time, I hope you’ve weighed the facts against the false.