

Chairman Owens and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa Deckert. I serve as the Office Administrator for the North Dakota Home School Association and am also on the board of directors. I submit testimony today on the behalf of our board.

The North Dakota Home School Association Board of Directors supports the right of parents to choose the best educational option for their children. Our position on HB 1369 in its current form is neutral.

We offer neutral testimony simply to add to the public record that we see the need for an educational empowerment program to remain **separate and distinct** from private, parent directed, parent funded, home education. We support the creating of a new chapter in the Century Code to define and implement such a program as **distinct** from current educational choices in North Dakota.

Thank you,

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