



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

Mr. Michael Heilman
Executive Director
3144 Hampton Street
Bismarck, ND 58504
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com
701-527-4621

Mr. Brandt Dick
President
PO Box 100 – 123 Summit Street
Underwood, ND 5857
Brandt.Dick@underwoodschool.org
701-442-3274

Mr. Steven Heim
Vice-President
PO Box 256
Drake, ND 58736
Steve.heim@k12.nd.us
701-465-3732

HB 1281 – Education Tax Credit

Testimony in Opposition

Michael Heilman – Executive Director North Dakota Small Organized School

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Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, my name is Michael Heilman and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 154 member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. I will keep my testimony brief as NDSOS's position is much the same as NDCEL's.

NDSOS is opposed to any tax credits, payments, vouchers or any other use of public dollars to fund private schools or home education as proposed in HB 1281. The concerns with funding or tax credits of this nature are that they put additional burden on the state general fund which may have an impact on funding of public education. Additionally, if public dollars are going to be used to fund private school and/or home education, there should be the same level of accountability and regulation that is in place for public education.

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The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.