

Dear Members of the Senate,

I strongly urge you to support HB 1540/SB 2400 because ESAs will be good for our state. They will provide parents with greater autonomy over their children's education, increase educational opportunities through supporting new markets, make all schools more accountable to parents, and help to keep non-public education accessible to families. Our non-public school families currently save the State over \$80,000,000 per year because they pay for their children's education out of pocket, while public school parents (without being means tested) pay nothing for their children's education except taxes, which are paid the the parents of non-public school parents as well. This is fundamentally unjust. Bishop Ryan Catholic School provides a valuable service to its families and the state of North Dakota, it is only right that some support be provided to parents who choose non-public education for their children.

It is time that we give support to ALL our ND families to make choices for their children's education.

With much gratitude,

Marlo Nelson