



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1540

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of House Bill 1540 and respectfully requests that you render a DO PASS on this bill.

Educational options are in high demand nationwide as parents seek out the best opportunities for their children. There are now 34 states and territories that currently offer some type of school choice program¹, and we would love for North Dakota to join those ranks. Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and similar programs are some of the most popular types of school choice options because they offer families more educational flexibility through state financial support.

This bill would provide a state grant to families who choose not to enroll their students in public school. The funding could be used towards an array of qualified educational expenses. We are pleased that this covers many student scenarios and provides a financial benefit to families who utilize options outside the public school system.

We strongly support this type of program in North Dakota, because it gives families more options as they consider the best educational fit for their children, their child's most effective learning techniques, and specific circumstances. In addition, a school choice option such as this allows families to consider more educational choices than may have been possible on their own income alone.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you vote House Bill 1540 out of committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

¹ <https://excelinedinaction.org/2025/01/07/the-rise-of-eas-continues-10-states-take-action-on-school-choice-in-2024>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action