

My name is Kari Weigel, and I am the daughter of a dedicated classroom teacher. Growing up, I spent much of my childhood watching, admiring, and dreaming of becoming a teacher like my mother. In 1995, driven by her deep belief in helping every child succeed, she left public education and entered the world of supplemental learning.

That same year, she founded Sylvan Learning in Bismarck. I joined her in 2004 and later took over after her retirement. Today, Sylvan operates locations around the globe, and our Bismarck center consistently ranks in the top 3% of all Sylvan locations. This success is a testament to North Dakota's strong commitment to education beyond the classroom.

In just the last five years, our Bismarck location has provided 89,400 tutoring sessions—clear evidence that North Dakota families recognize and value educational support alongside what schools provide. For nearly 30 years, we have proudly partnered with families, schools, and tribes to meet the unique needs of students. Our personalized education programs have helped children catch up, keep up, and get ahead, paving a brighter future for North Dakota.

Many families are unable to use our services due to the lack of finances. A program like this would help many more families who are unable to afford personalized supplemental education services.

I am in support of an ESA program and encourage the committee to include all students, regardless of whether they attend public or nonpublic schools. This program should provide relief to **all** working families—public and private—ensuring a meaningful investment in the next generation of North Dakotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kari Weigel