

Good morning,

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, my name is Lisa Brintnell, from Minot, ND. I am here today to express my support for House Bill 1540.

My husband and I have eight wonderful children, six of those attending Bishop Ryan Catholic School.

As parents, we have always prioritized the education of our children. Providing them with a high quality education is the best investment we can make in their future. After careful consideration and much prayer, we choose to enroll our children in a private school that aligns with our values. This decision was not made lightly, as it has come with significant financial sacrifices.

Bishop Ryan has provided our children with a safe, nurturing environment where they have been able to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. However, the financial burden of sending eight children to private school is substantial; \$40,000 to be exact. The cost of tuition, educational materials, and to be honest the daily cost of living has made it difficult to sustain this level of financial commitment.

As hard working, tax paying citizens of North Dakota, we believe we should have input on where our tax dollars are being spent. The proposed Educational Savings Account programs outlined in these bills would be a game changer for our family. The flexibility to use these funds for our children's educational expenses would enable us to continue providing the best education for our children without compromising our financial stability.

I hope you strongly consider families such as ours, taking religious freedom into consideration and the impact it can make on the future of our children when voting on these bills. I respectfully request that you give this bill a Do Pass.

This concludes my testimony, and I stand for any questions.

Respectfully,

Lisa Brintnell