



HB 1540

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Sammi Weber, North Dakota Student Association

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Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weber, and I am the President of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for HB 1540.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System (NDUS), and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The education savings account proposed by this bill will ultimately benefit North Dakota higher education students by providing stronger academic resources and reducing some of the financial burden on families. By allowing greater flexibility in allocating educational savings, parents and guardians can ensure their children have access to innovative learning environments, specialized tutoring, and advanced education programs. This bill enables families to direct educational funds where they are most needed, ensuring students receive an education tailored to their needs. Stronger academic preparation for primary and secondary students will increase the likelihood of success in higher education for those who choose to pursue it.

House Bill 1540 gives families the opportunity to save for their children's higher education. With education savings accounts available in primary and secondary school, future higher

education students will be in a better financial position to invest in themselves. As a university student who has experienced the challenges of financial strain on both myself and my family, I believe House Bill 1540 is a meaningful step toward higher education affordability. The educational savings account program will support students who hope to contribute to North Dakota's workforce and community.

On behalf of the NDSA, I respectfully ask the committee for a DO PASS recommendation on House Bill 1540.