

Vote no on HB 1607

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed school “educational empowerment accounts.” While the intention behind these funds may be good, I believe they ultimately undermine the public education system and add to existing inequalities.

First and foremost, diverting public funds into educational empowerment accounts takes vital resources away from our public schools, which are already struggling to meet the needs of students and staff. These funds, intended for the benefit of a select few, could instead be used to improve facilities, hire and retain teachers, and provide essential services for every child in our community. Our public schools are the backbone of our community, and they deserve our unwavering support.

Additionally, the lack of accountability and oversight with these funds raises serious concerns. Without proper regulation, there is a risk that funds may be mismanaged or used for purposes that do not directly benefit students' education. Public school boards were created to oversee our school districts to account for tax payer dollars. Our children deserve a transparent and accountable system that prioritizes their learning and development.

I urge you to vote no on HB 1607. Instead, let us focus on strengthening our public education system, ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education. Together, we can build a brighter future for all students in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deven Mantz

Minot, ND

District 5