



North Dakota Home School Association

Serving Home Educators since 1985

HB 1607

No

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Theresa Deckert and I am writing on behalf of the North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) in opposition of HB 1607. We are the only statewide home school association and have support groups throughout the state affiliated with us. We are also the organization that has fought for homeschool freedom since 1985 and the freedom families have to homeschool today is because of our efforts over the years. We do not want to see those freedoms eroded through the allocating of state funds to home educators

For the last several sessions I have worked to educate legislators on home education and why the majority do not want state monies. Homeschoolers are very independent folk who highly value their freedoms!

I must thank the writers of this bill as I think they do understand and have written the bill in a way that requires home educators to withdraw their Statement of Intent (SOI's) in order to receive these dollars. So in essence they would no longer be a homeschooled student according to current state law.

It would appear that an ESA student could still be educated at home, but not considered a homeschool student under the homeschool statute. That is fine, but I think there needs to be **further clarity** concerning this.

So we stand in opposition to HB 1607 and would urge a “do not pass” as written. If the committee wants to look at the bill and **consider an amendment**, I would be happy to visit with any member. I am sorry I could not be there in person because of previous commitments, but will spend Thursday afternoon at the Capitol and I hope to have a chance to visit with a few of you.

Thank you committee and the bill sponsors on the work done. I do not envy your position!

Sincerely,

Theresa Deckert 701-662-4790

Legislative Liaison/Lobbyist

North Dakota Home School Association