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Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed educational empowerment account program; very similar to Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs). As a K-12 school administrator, I have serious concerns about the long-term impact such a program would have on public education, student equity, and the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, serving all students regardless of ability, background, or socioeconomic status. ESA programs divert critical funding away from public schools, weakening our ability to provide high-quality education, maintain facilities, retain highly qualified teachers, and offer essential student services. Public schools are already underfunded, and further reductions in funding will only exacerbate disparities and hinder student achievement.

Unlike public schools, which are held to rigorous academic and financial accountability standards, private institutions and other education service providers that benefit from ESAs often operate with minimal oversight. This lack of accountability raises serious concerns about the effectiveness and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Moreover, there is little evidence to suggest that ESA programs lead to better academic outcomes for students, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Additionally, ESAs do not provide a viable solution for many rural families. In areas with limited private school options, families may find themselves unable to utilize ESA funds effectively, while their local public schools suffer from reduced resources. This creates an inequitable system that disproportionately benefits families in urban areas while neglecting those in rural communities.

I urge you to oppose HB 1607 and instead focus on investing in public education—ensuring all students have access to high-quality teachers, well-equipped classrooms, and the support services they need to succeed. Strengthening our public schools should be our priority, not diverting funds to programs that primarily benefit a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and advocate for policies that truly benefit all students.



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