



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Matthew Heilman

District 7
5501 Flatrock Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503-8929
mheilman@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions

February 5th, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Matt Heilman, and I'm a state representative from North Dakota's seventh legislative district. I am here today to testify in favor of HB 1607.

This bill is identical to a bill that was recently introduced in South Dakota. HB 1607 establishes an ESA for students equivalent to the per pupil payment which is \$11,072. I had some concerns brought up to me about the debit cards on page four line two. However, the following section does provide for accountability to make sure the funds are used appropriately. Mr. Tescher from the Department of Public Instruction noted in the fiscal note that the department could not implement this bill in time for the 2025-2026 school year due to IT concerns. If this bill were to pass, we may have to amend the effective date or make other accommodations for DPI. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I will stand for whatever questions you may have about the bill.