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# Testimony Before the House Education Committee

## HB 1607

### February 5, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I am pleased to be before you today to offer testimony in opposition to HB 1607 and urge a **do not pass** recommendation for this proposed legislation.

Members of the Committee, HB 1607 seeks to codify a provision creating educational empowerment accounts for authorized educational expenses. Authorized educational expenses such as technological devices, registration fees for advanced placement examinations, nationally standardized achievement tests, and examinations related to postsecondary admission, and others are worthy of public investment. If the bill stopped there, I would be testifying in favor. However, HB 1607 also allows for money raised for public education and other public purposes to be used for private school tuition, and that is something that ND United has historically opposed. We are opposed to such expenditures because diverting public money to private schools strains the resources available to public schools which they need to fulfill their promise and Constitutional obligation to provide a solid education for every child that walks, runs, rolls, or gets carried through our schoolhouse doors.

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, I respectfully request a **do not pass** recommendation for HB 1607.



