

Mr. or Madam Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is Joy Ankenbauer. I am from the Kenmare/Bowbells area, and I have been home educating my four children for the last 15 years. I have a ND teacher's license and taught in the public school system before teaching my own children.

I heartily recommend a DO PASS on House Bill 1244. The tax credit for materials, books, and other homeschooling tools would help many home educators. I am just about done home educating my kids, so this bill is probably of little benefit to me, but it would benefit my younger sister, who is just starting to homeschool her 1st grader. It would also benefit many other home schooling families.

I like the bill as written, as a simple tax credit. If this bill were to add regulations other than the required documentation in order to receive the tax credit, then the bill would be of little use. Generally, home schoolers value their freedoms greatly.

North Dakota is already towards the upper end of regulation in the home school space. There are thirty-four states with less stringent regulations, four states with significantly higher regulations, and eleven states with comparable regulations. (Source: <https://hsllda.org/legal/>)

Home school students usually receive a high quality education. The homeschool average scores, in every area, are consistently higher than that of public schools. Home education is a very good thing, and we should find any and every way to support and encourage home education.