

Testimony in support of HB 1244: Home Education Income Tax Credit

To the members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

I am Cam Leedah, long-time North Dakota homeschool advocate. My husband and I have three successful homeschool graduates and we are the grandparents of home educated children in North Dakota.

Homeschooling taxpayers pay for their own child's education and additionally help pay for a government school education system. While this is a burden that homeschooling parents have chosen to bear for the belief that their child is served better with home education, it is difficult to have to also pay towards the education of other children in the government schools.

Double payments.

A tax credit would allow for the homeschooling parent to KEEP their OWN money to help pay for their own family's education expenses, money that would otherwise go towards other people's children to be educated. This is money that never enters the government coffers.

A tax credit makes much more sense than vouchers and other programs that use government funds to pay for educational expenses of children not in a government school.

Tax credits are a "keep your own money" option that supports the education of a child: the parent's own child.

The rub will be the burden on the tax commissioner who would determine that manner and form that would ensure that the child is "qualified" and which education expenses are "qualified". I would encourage that the North Dakota Home School Association be contacted for advice before implementing this portion of the bill.

I urge you to give this bill a "DO PASS".