

To the committee:

I strongly urge you to support HB 1540 because ESAs will be good for the families in our state. They will provide parents with greater autonomy over their children's education, increase educational opportunities through supporting new markets, make all schools more accountable to parents, and help to keep non-public education accessible to families. Our non-public school families currently save the State over \$80,000,000 per year because they pay for their children's education out of pocket, while public school parents (without being means tested) pay nothing for their children's education except taxes, which are paid by the the parents of non-public school parents as well. This is fundamentally unjust. For example here in Minot our property taxes have increased each year in the last five years due to schools being built that my children will not use or attend. Bishop Ryan Catholic School provides a valuable service to its families and the state of North Dakota, it is only right that some support be provided to parents who choose non-public education for their children, many of whom do so based on their faith and morals. This bill would provide parents with REAL and meaningful choice because financial issues won't be as prominent in the equation.

Thank you for your time.

Samantha Bice

Minot ND district 40