

Dear Educational Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1540, which establishes Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) for families. This bill would provide parents with greater flexibility to direct the public funds designated for their child's education toward the educational environment that best meets their child's needs.

As a family of eight, we understand firsthand the challenges of securing a quality education for our children. Despite choosing to send our children to Catholic schools, we continue to struggle each month to pay the tuition required. The financial burden is significant, but we believe in the value of a good education, and we are committed to doing whatever it takes to give our children the opportunities they deserve. However, this struggle would be alleviated if we had more control over how public funds for education are spent.

SB 1540 would give families like ours the option to use tax dollars designated for our child's education in a way that best fits our circumstances, helping us meet the high costs of private schooling while also ensuring our children receive a quality education that aligns with our values. School choice should be about empowering parents to choose the best educational option for their children, whether that means public school, private school, or another learning environment.

We know that the traditional education system does not always serve every child's needs in the best way. Allowing parents to make those decisions, supported by the funds that are already earmarked for education, would increase the diversity of educational experiences and outcomes, ultimately benefiting all students. It would also foster greater accountability and innovation in the education system, ensuring schools are better equipped to meet the needs of their students.

I urge you to support SB 1540 and pass it into law. By doing so, you would help families like ours navigate the financial challenges of securing an education that works best for their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support in making this bill a reality for families across our state.

Sincerely,

Mary Fleck  
Catholic School Parent