



# North Dakota Home School Association

Serving Home Educators since 1985

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HB 1540 – Neutral

Chairman Beard and Committee Members,

I represent the North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA). As an association we are remaining neutral on this bill as it no longer affects us; homeschooling was amended out at our request to the sponsor.

The North Dakota Home School Association is the only statewide homeschool association. We have worked tirelessly since 1985 to secure homeschool freedom and autonomy. Our organization works to assist all families in parent-funded, parent-directed home education. We have a mailing list of over 1200 families. Our state office answers questions from parents and our special needs coordinator assists families in finding resources. Our annual convention provides a vendor hall to look at curriculum and there are multiple breakout sessions covering many topics, including “How to Begin Homeschooling, which covers the law and practical helps for success.

Our organization has posted the following official position on ESA's:

We Believe:

- *Parents are responsible for the education of their children.*
- *Those who receive funding should be accountable to the source of those funds.*
- *The freedom to educate according to one's conscience is more important than financial support.*
- *“School Choice” is best achieved through deregulation and lower taxes. This empowers parents and communities to determine what works best for the children entrusted to them. With fewer financial constraints, families will have more resources to allocate as they see fit.*
- *Funding homeschools will ultimately **reduce** “School Choice” because government-funded schools are no longer truly independent. A major limitation of public schools is their obligation to be accountable to the public rather than to parents. While this is appropriate since the public funds them, it also restricts parental authority.*
- *When tax dollars are used for education, some taxpayers inevitably fund belief systems that they do not support.*
- *A public school option already exists. Funding home educators will erode their independence. Instead, efforts should focus on improving public schools while allowing and trusting parents to educate their children as they see fit.*

Therefore be it resolved that the NDHSA is opposed to any public funding of home education.

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