

As a proud parent of a student at a private education school, I strongly support House Bill 1540 and Senate Bill 2400. These bills empower North Dakota families with educational savings accounts (ESAs), enabling us to choose the learning environments that best serve our children. For my family, a private education school has been that environment—a place that raises the bar for individual student success and, in turn, strengthens our state.

The smaller size and high standards of a private education school create a supportive setting where students thrive. Unlike larger districts like Fargo or West Fargo, a private education school offers personalized attention that meets my child's unique needs. The teachers know my student not as a number, but as an individual with distinct strengths and aspirations. This tailored approach has allowed my child to excel academically, grow in confidence, and develop skills that will serve them—and North Dakota—well into the future.

The rich history and commitment to excellence at a private education school also set it apart. It encourages students to participate in a wide range of activities, from academics to athletics to the arts. This holistic preparation ensures our graduates are versatile, resilient, and ready to contribute to our state's workforce and communities. I've seen firsthand how this environment fosters leadership and character—qualities that make North Dakota stronger.

ESAs would make this transformative education accessible to more families. These bills remove financial barriers while preserving parental choice. Importantly, this “new money” supports private education schools without detracting from public school funding—a win-win for our state.

North Dakota thrives when all students have the opportunity to reach their potential. The ability of a private education school to raise the bar for individual learners proves that private schools play a vital role in that mission. I urge the Legislature to pass HB 1540 and SB 2400, giving families the tools to choose the best education for their children. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant North Dakota—one student at a time. Thank you for your consideration.

Byron Snider