

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to use public dollars to fund Educational Savings Accounts, HB 1540. As an educator with almost 32 years of experience in North Dakota public schools, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that our public education system has on students and the community. My family has deep roots in public education – I graduated from a North Dakota public school, as did my wife and children. We are all proud of our public education and are active, tax-paying members of this state.

I strongly believe that the implementation of ESAs will take vital resources away from the public education system and ultimately harm students in our state, especially those in rural areas. Rural schools, where options for school choice are limited, rely heavily on public funding to provide quality education. Diverting money from public schools to fund ESAs will only exacerbate the challenges rural schools face, including limited access to resources, teachers, and extracurricular opportunities.

While school choice may be a viable option in urban settings, it does not work the same way in rural communities. Public education serves as the backbone for rural areas, and we need to focus on strengthening it, not undermining it by diverting funds away. By investing in public schools, we can ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has access to the resources they need to succeed.

I urge you to take a stand for public education and oppose the use of public dollars to fund ESAs. Let's invest in the future of our students, our communities, and the state of North Dakota by supporting and strengthening our public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will make the right decision in support of North Dakota's public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monty Mayer".

Monty Mayer  
Velva Public School Superintendent