

Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1540, which proposes the creation of an education savings account (ESA) program in North Dakota. As a parent with children currently attending private school, I see firsthand how vital it is to have access to an education that aligns with their unique needs and learning styles.

This bill would make a world of difference for families like mine, providing much-needed financial support to help cover tuition and other educational expenses at nonpublic schools. We've made the choice to send our children to a private school because of the smaller class sizes, our beliefs, individualized attention, and a curriculum that better suits their strengths. However, private school tuition can be a financial burden, and an education savings account would help lessen that strain.

The ESA program would allow us to use state funds to directly support our children's education, giving us the flexibility to invest in the resources that make a real difference in their academic success. It would also ensure that our kids have continued access to quality education without worrying about rising costs. As a parent, I want the best possible future for my children, and this program would provide them with the opportunity to continue receiving the high-quality education that private schools offer.

I truly believe that this bill will help level the playing field for families across North Dakota, offering them the choice and financial support needed to make the best educational decisions for their children. I ask for your support in passing HB 1540 and helping our children—along with so many others—thrive in an educational environment that works for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mia Lehn