

Chairman Owens and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa Deckert. I serve as the Office Administrator for the North Dakota Home School Association and am also on the board of directors. I submit testimony today on the behalf of our association.

The North Dakota Home School Association Board of Directors supports the right of parents to choose the best educational option for their children. We are neutral on this bill in its current form.

“Pod schooling” does not fit within the realm of the current homeschool law and we would not want to see it included in the homeschool code. It should remain a separate and distinct form of education.

However on a personal note, I can share with you from the perspective of working for the state homeschool association. This bill does address an area that was a real need during the pandemic. Not all parents were comfortable with sending their children to on site classes, possibly because of health issues, but neither were they able to stay home and supervise their young child’s education. I received many calls asking about pod schooling these past months. I do not really see any part of state law that currently allows for this form of education. The legislature may need to be proactive in establishing another alternative for parents in the light of some future emergency disaster.

Thank you,

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