



North Dakota Home School Association

Serving Home Educators since 1985

HB 1590

No

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

The North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) is fundamentally opposed to public dollars funding home education.

This bill contains some very good thoughts and it is clear it was thought through carefully. I like the fact that it is a pilot program and also that it requires parents to chip in. It also appears that this bill is for all students whether public, private or home educated.

If it were a bill offering help for some of the expenses incurred by special needs families and possibly a few other of the items we might have different thoughts on the bill. Our concern lies again in **tuition for non-public education**. Does that include homeschooling? **We do not think it is the role of the state to finance home education programs**. Most parents choose home education because they want freedom. With funding will come regulation.

Homeschooling is a relatively inexpensive education option. Over my years of home educating my four children I never spent more than \$500 total unless one was enrolled in a dual credit college course. Granted, I have been done for awhile, but a lot of home school curriculum is in the form of non-consumables and so is used with subsequent children. Many of our state homeschool support groups have curriculum lending libraries and homeschoolers are regular patrons of our state's public libraries.

This bill, with some work, might have some good possibilities, but we are leery because of the funding of nonpublic education. The scope of this bill should remain small during its pilot and then discussion about other possibilities could be considered.

In the words of Ronald Reagan, "I think you all know that I've always felt the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the Government and I'm here to help'."

Please render a "do not pass".

Sincerely,

Theresa Deckert 701-662-4790

Legislative Liaison/Lobbyist

North Dakota Home School Association