



North Dakota Home School Association

Serving Home Educators since 1985

HB 1244

Yes

Chairman Headland and Members of the House Taxation and Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Dakota Home School Association (NDHSA) expressing support for HB 1244. There have been bills similar to this in the last few sessions. Our Association has never requested that a bill be brought forward extending financial aid to home educators but in this day and age of a tight economy coupled with a growing nationwide push for school choice bills we feel it necessary to weigh in.

Home schooling can present a financial hardship to families through the loss of one income as a parent moves into fulltime educating plus the expense of curricula and technological support. These same families save ND taxpayers lots of money as they take on the job of educating their own children. A quick bit of math using my own family as an example. I have 4 children whom I home educated K - 12. At the current state per pupil investment I saved the state of ND \$542,360 by educating them myself- you are welcome!

The NDHSA supports tax credits but we do not support including homeschooling into an Educational Savings Account Bill (ESA). A tax credit is keeping some of your own hard earned dollars where ESA's are using my neighbors dollars to educate my own child. We are fundamentally opposed to that.

Our organization does question the dollar amount of \$10,000 per student which seems excessive. Home education curriculum is not that expensive and even enrolling in an online academy would be less dollars

Homeschooling students in North Dakota are thriving. Studies show they are more civically involved than the average person. These graduates are small business owners, managers, military members, city and county commissioners and even a ND state Representative. Homeschooling has proven to produce solid citizens for our state .

Please give HB1244 a do pass.

Sincerely,

Theresa Deckert 701-662-4790

Legislative Liaison/Lobbyist

North Dakota Home School Association