



Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Zach Eckert, Regional Legislative Director for ExcelinEd in Action. ExcelinEd in Action is the 501(c)(4) sister organization to the Foundation for Excellence in Education. ExcelinEd in Action works with state lawmakers and partner organizations to pass legislation that empowers families with educational choice, prepares students for college and career, prioritizes early literacy, expands innovation and strengthens school performance.

I write to you today to urge your support of SF 1525, which would create an education savings account (ESA) to empower families to pursue the education options best suited to their child's individual needs. Under this program, parents will have the freedom to foster stable and continuous learning - especially in light of the pandemic - and to have the educational program that works for their children.

With an ESA, parents direct their children's education funding to the state-approved schools, courses, programs, and services of their choice—plus unused funds can be saved for future K-12 and college expenses. Five states currently have ESA programs: Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee. And several other Midwest states - including Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, and Kansas - are considering ESA legislation this year.

Research shows ESAs both satisfy parents and improve public schools. A growing body of [evidence](#) suggests parents are [more satisfied](#) when they have an active role in choosing their children's education environment. [Research](#) has shown that Florida's scholarship program resulted in academic improvement for students who remain in public schools, and since the program's inception, Florida's public-school students with special needs have led the nation in academic gains. Having the option in place not only led to children being better served, it became the necessary push for many public schools to deliver better services.

Sincerely,

Zach Eckert
Regional Legislative Director, ExcelinEd in Action
Zach@ExcelinEd.org