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To: House Finance and Taxation Committee
From: Christopher Dodson, Executive Director
Subject: House Bill 1281 relating to an income tax credit for taxpayers whose children receive nonpublic school or home education
Date: January 18, 2021

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports House Bill 1281 as a way toward an education system that empowers all parents to choose the best educational setting for their children.

All children have a right to a state-supported education. This right is rooted in who we are as human persons and the obligations of the political community to concretely assist in the development of all children so that they can reach their full potential.

Just as all children have a right to a state-supported education, all parents have a right to choose the best educational setting for their children. Parents are the primary educators of their children and best know what educational setting suits their particular children.

The two rights are not mutually exclusive and treating them such — as our current system does — violates both the child's and the parent's basic human rights.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on HB 1281.