

TO: Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
FROM: Dr. Leroy Huizenga
RE: HB 1218
DATE: March 8, 2021

Dear Honorable Senators:

As a taxpayer and home schooling parent who takes civic responsibilities seriously, I am writing in support of HB 1281.

Children have a right to an education funded by the state. I am happy that in this day and age a wide variety of options are available for children in our country—public schools (which I attended growing up in Minot and in which I received a superb education), private schools, parochial schools, charter schools, and home schools. Not every sort of school is right for every child; some thrive in some settings, others in other settings.

I also believe—on reasoned, philosophical grounds the western tradition has long worked out and articulated—that parents are the primary educators of their children, and know best what setting their children would thrive in.

To establish some measure of basic fairness, then, I would strongly support HB 1281, as it would be a step towards giving parents who believe a nonpublic setting is best for their children more practical capacity to exercise their freedom to choose how best to educate their children. Doing so would bring the child's right to a publicly-funded education and parents' rights to determine the best setting for their children's education into greater alignment than exists in our State at present. It would also greatly help my own family with the expenses we bear in educating our children at home.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and my testimony, and I do hope you will vote in support of HB 1281.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Huizenga", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Leroy Huizenga
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