

Testimony In Support of HB 1494

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Bismarck

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Chair Heinert and Members of the Education Committee:

Please help North Dakota School districts put children first with a “Do pass” recommendation for HB1494. Passing this can help make the meals part of the school day more free from stress, worry, and feelings of shame for North Dakota students.

Passage of this law will help remove children from a situation that is between parents and school districts. You can help support school district staff and administrators and school board members with these guidelines that make paths for action clear. With this guidance in writing and in law, administrators will have direction in their actions to obtain payment for services provided. Enacting this law will result in more equal treatment of students in all schools across this state.

When pairing this bill 1494 with 1491 to provide for Healthy School Meals for All, we will be making progress toward ensuring that all the children in our care in the state of North Dakota have enough to eat. Food for school children is a worthy investment with dividends of healthier children with improved learning. Please give this bill a “Do pass” recommendation and vote for it on the floor of the House. North Dakota families now and in the future will thank you for it.