

February 1, 2025

Education Committee
North Dakota State House

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to **strongly support HB 1472**, which provides for educational opportunities in the form of Microschools. As an educator with experience in both public and private institutions, I have frequently observed the positive learning outcomes that occur when a student's learning environment is suited to their individual and educational needs.

Parents are increasingly concerned about public school outcomes, including declining test scores, larger class sizes, and overwhelming social problems. These factors affect children of all ages, economic backgrounds, and giftings, and point strongly to the need for flexible and personalized educational alternatives.

Microschools provide just such an alternative, giving students a space where they can maximize their talents, make up their weaknesses, and participate in a safe and comfortable environment that best fits their individual learning needs.

Microschools also allow parents to select or set up the educational opportunities that are best suited for their child, and offer the latitude to tailor curriculum, grade level for various subjects, class size and classmates, school hours and environment, and instructor. As the primary stakeholders in their children's education, parents should have full freedom to supervise and manage these aspects, and have the right to do so apart from the expense and limitations of regulation or oversight.

Much will likely be said about the need to regulate microschools; however, each layer of regulation adds financial cost, and reduces educational flexibility. The purpose of microschools is to provide a low-cost and highly-flexible educational opportunity which is available to all North Dakota children, regardless of family income or status. This bill helps to provide that opportunity, and I strongly support a **Do Pass**.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Oliver, PhD