

Members of the Education Committee and Chair,

Thank you for considering this testimony. My name is Brianna Taylor and I live in District 29. I am a wife, homeschooling mother of three, and graduate of Jamestown College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Homeschooling is not something I ever imagined I would do, but now I am halfway through my seventh year. My children are spread across high school, middle school, and elementary school, so I enjoy a broad range of levels. I am testifying in favor of HB 1472 because I have the privilege of participating in a co-op style homeschool group and have witnessed and received the immense benefits of a kind of “microschool” which the bill speaks to.

Our co-op utilizes a classical, Christian method of education with a specific curriculum that covers all “traditional” subjects one would expect but goes far beyond those classes. We (mothers who teach and our children) come together four days each week to learn and grow: not only academically but also in virtue, character, and love for God and others. We learn Latin, math, grammar, and spelling in the mornings. After lunch/P.E. we (depending on age) study various subjects including Greek, Hebrew, classic literature, composition, history, geography, the Bible, US Constitution & Government, logic, music, art, science, and poetry.

The education my children are receiving is excellent under any standard; more than that, however, is the truth, beauty, and goodness that is imparted to them daily in so many different ways. We teach voluntarily because we know the inherent value that lies within

this model and method. I wish all children could receive this education! I have no doubts about the kind of adults they will grow up to be, and the small school setting we are involved in plays no small part in that great comfort. Having a class of four lends itself to much more in-depth discussion on any subject, allows for greater assistance to the child in mastering any subject, and engages close friendships amongst the children and parents. We are building a culture and community and passing that on to our children--believing that they, too, will become adults who love God, love others, and live lives of sacrifice for the good of their families, neighbors, and nation. We would love to share this method of education with others who may be interested but unable to participate for various reasons, including full-time employment, etc. HB 1472 would allow us to offer that to them and their children.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of HB 1472. Thank you for your time spent deliberating over this issue, and your service to the great state of North Dakota and those of us privileged to call it home.