

Chairman Heinert and members of the Education Committee, my name is Alex Newman, and I am here today to urge all of you to support HB1472 to expand educational liberty.

As the author of two best-selling books on education, a longtime educator, a homeschool father, and an expert who has been featured on Fox, Newsmax, OAN, and countless other venues on education, I can assure you this is an area I know something about and care deeply about.

Parents have a fundamental, God-given right to direct the education and upbringing of their children without undue government interference.

There is no need for all of the counterproductive and quasi-tyrannical regulations and restrictions that currently exist in North Dakota that are obstacles to educational freedom.

Parents have a very strong interest in ensuring that the private schools, microschools, and homeschools that their children are learning from are doing a great job. Any providers that do not meet those expectations will lose customers.

In any case, students at private schools do far better on average than students in government schools. That is one of the many reasons why parents are willing to make the sacrifice to choose these options. As such, legislators should not work on fixing what is not broken.

Government data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show less than a third of students in government schools are not proficient in any core subject. The people in charge of this system (government) have no business telling successful alternatives what to do or how to do it.

I urge a DO PASS on HB 1472. And I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Alex Newman