GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A great place to grow and learn!

Mission Statement
Grand Forks Public Schools will provide an environment of educational excellence that
engages all learners to develop their maximum potential for community and global success.

Child Nutrition Program
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Chairmen Owens and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Emily Karel and I serve as the Child Nutrition Director for Grand Forks Public Schools. I am writing today in opposition of this bill *as it is written*. This bill appears to provide great benefits to North Dakota students, but could pose challenges in the operation of school meals, funding sources and the state's budget in the future.

I would consider an amendment to this bill changing the language on line 8 from "providing breakfast and lunch, free of charge, for all students" to "providing breakfast and lunch, free of charge to students that qualify for reduced priced meals". This would provide respite for our working families while maintaining quality food services programs.

The free and reduced priced meals application would become obsolete and programs that use this information could see a decrease in funding. Since meals are provided to all students this year at no cost there is not a need to complete the applications for free or reduced priced meals. We have processed about half of what we usually do. Luckily USDA was gracious enough to allow us to use prior year information for funding sources and other meal program operations. I do not anticipate this waiver to extend past this school year.

It would be more beneficial to the free and received students in North Dakota to receive free meals for 10 years than for all students for two years if the legacy fund depletes and funding becomes unavailable in the future.

Please contact me for further discussion or to address any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Emily Karel RD, LRD, CDM