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To: Finance and Taxation Committee

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RE: Reasons to pass House Bill 1281

CREATES COMPETITION:

We are witnessing at the national level that monopolies in technology are not always in our best interests. There seems to be some bi-partisan support for this idea. In a sense public education has a monopoly over student learning. More Christian, and private schools would create more competition which would benefit ALL students in ALL schools.

How would all students benefit?

Higher test scores and possibility a greater emphasis on character building, citizenship and patriotism.

IS IT FAIR TO USE TAX DOLLARS TO SUPPORT NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION?

There is probably more emphasis then there has ever been for “choice” in our society. In some areas this demand for choice has resulted in tax dollars being used some times in unprecedented ways.

The latest Federal budget has many, many examples of how taxpayer dollars are spent on things that many people might feel allow a greater degree of choice.

Tax dollars spent on greater choices for parents who wish to send their children to a Christian or private school might be one of the less controversial examples.

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT TEND TO THINK THAT ALLOWING TAX CREDITS FOR PARENTS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS NOT FAIR AND TAKES MONEY AWAY FROM EDUCATING THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS.

All parents who send their children to public schools who own property pay twice...through local property taxes and state taxes. Some might say this system is unfair.

If a district is “property rich” do those students living in that district have an unfair advantage over those who live in a “property poor” district? Probably. Is that “fair”?

Each public school also receives foundation aid for each student enrolled in that school. If more and more students attend private or Christian schools less foundation aid goes to those schools because less money is needed because there are fewer students.

THE FUTURE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....

There are developments occurring in public schools nationwide that are causing many parents a great deal of concern. One has to do with gender identification. There are public schools that are doing away with automatically calling boys boys and girls girls when they enter school until their “true gender” can be determined. There are more than a few situations where mis directed gender identification has resulted in blatant unfairness in girls’ sports.

There is in public education what many parents feel is a misguided and, in some cases, untruthful emphasis on how America was founded and how it became a great nation.

And finally there is a growing movement that public educators need to put more and more emphasis on diversity instead of emphasizing the benefits of citizenship. Along with that is the philosophy that all white people have a “built in “bias toward people of color and only through public education can this trend be reversed.

I do not believe these are the beliefs of the vast majority of people in ND or, currently, the majority of teachers and administrators in ND.

I do believe that by passing HB 1281 into law there will be less of a chance that these things will become common place in our state.