

1 HB1464– Relating to High-Cost Students

2 Mandan Public Schools – Mike Bitz, Superintendent

3 Good afternoon Chairman Heinert and members of the House  
4 Education Committee. For the record, my name is Mike Bitz. I  
5 am fortunate to serve as the superintendent for Mandan Public  
6 Schools. I am here today in support of HB1464. I will be brief.

7 Currently the state of ND has an “insurance policy” in law for ND  
8 school districts. Local school districts are responsible for all costs  
9 associated with educating a student up to 4X the state average cost  
10 of education per pupil, (in 2021-2022 this amount was roughly  
11 \$56,000). Once a district reaches the threshold of 4X the average  
12 cost of education the state will reimburse districts for excess costs  
13 beyond that amount for all “special education” students. I believe  
14 that when this legislation was adopted the thought was that it  
15 would not be possible to have a high-cost student that was not a  
16 special education student.

17 It is very rare for a non-special education student to reach the  
18 high-cost threshold, in fact, to the best of my knowledge, there  
19 currently is only 1 high-cost student in the state that is not a

1 special education student. This student is medically fragile and  
2 requires a full-time nurse to participate in school. This student is  
3 extremely intelligent and one of the top students in the school,  
4 while the student has intense medical needs, the student does not  
5 qualify for special education services.

6 This legislation will afford school districts protection for all high-  
7 cost students whether they qualify for special education services  
8 or they qualify because of medical condition.

9 I urge you to support HB 1464, and I would be happy to answer  
10 any questions you may have.

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