

North Dakota Legislative Committee

I am a working mother in Watford City, North Dakota. I am writing in support of the bill to provide free meals at schools in North Dakota.

Prior to the pandemic, I would not have supported this bill. I like others thought that the current lunch program for free or reduced lunches was enough.

I was a child of free and reduced lunches. I remember feeling embarrassed by the different color card that meant I received free lunches. I also worked in the kitchen when my parents did not qualify for free lunches only reduced lunches.

When the pandemic hit and the lunches were free to all, I thought "what a waste of government money. I can afford to pay for my children's lunches. There must be better ways to spend this money."

What I found in those two years, the free lunches were a blessing to parents. It was one less thing I had to worry about or make sure that my child was being fed during the day at school. I did not have to make sure I had lunch items in the house. I did not have to spend time on making lunches. It took one of my million to do's off my plate.

Thank you for considering this bill. Please vote yes and support this bill until it is passed for all North Dakota parents.

Katie Barber

Watford City, North Dakota

[barberkatie@gmail.com](mailto:barberkatie@gmail.com)

406-670-9565