

22nd January 2023

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2328. I am a community member, alumna and parent of the Hope-Page School District and I believe the bill is integral to the future sustainability of the Hope-Page School District and a multitude of rural districts within North Dakota.

What makes me passionate about the Hope-Page district is the commitment to personalized education and ensuring a safe learning environment while collaborating among the school, students, and communities. The bond between the school and its communities is what makes both able to thrive and prosper.

4 generations of my family have attended school in the Hope-Page School District and we take great pride in the school for offering wholesome academic experiences to students, employment opportunities to residents and social connections to individuals.

Without the bill, I fear what will become of our district. Calculations have projected that over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our budget would need to be cut—an amount that would be detrimental to school operations and the communities. What will become of districts similar to ours? What will other districts be forced to change? How will other rural communities persevere?

This legislation is essential to ensuring that rural school districts across North Dakota can remain operational and that students, staff and communities have access to the resources they desperately need to persist.

Your consideration and support of Senate Bill 2328 is highly valued. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to North Dakota, your work is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Jacobsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "J".

**Megan Jacobsen**  
12171 8th Street SE  
Luverne, ND  
Legislative District #29

