

Amanda Crane

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Dear Chair Elkin and Senate Education Committee,

I am in favor of House Bill 1376 that would allow students to participate in a choice virtual program.

I have been an at home educator in some way or another for the past 10 years. I began my home education journey in California with support from a virtual school much like Yellowstone Virtual Academy. This has continued to be the way in which I have educated my children at home until moving to North Dakota. A common thread of each of these public programs was direct access to personalized educational support with a state certified teacher with whom I could meet in person or via phone or email anytime I needed. Additionally, we were motivated and kept on track by weekly accountability, record keeping, and access to supplemental educational resources.

Without these public options I have still chosen to educate at home while living here in North Dakota. We have loved what educating at home provides for our family and the educational opportunities available for our children. Since we school at home we can individualize the delivery of standards aligned curriculum provided by these public programs and keep continuity and consistency. This has helped make our education seamless from year to year as we choose to continue through summer months and made the year of covid a non issue in our home.

I am not North Dakota grown but this is the state where my children are being raised and I am definitely advocating for them to have choice programming and innovative opportunities. Because North Dakota believes in public education I believe they want to support student success through expanded opportunities and programming that meets individual needs. I believe North Dakota wants to promote and encourage industry, growth, and innovation for the state; we want the families who move here to feel that their children have the opportunity of a transformational education that promotes contributing members of society. It supports our economic growth and success as a state.

Please help bring innovation to our North Dakota students and don't deny them of having educational opportunities that have become available within the state. Please vote yes to HB 1376.

Sincerely,

Amanda Crane