

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Bob Marthaller, representing North Dakota United, and I am happy to appear before you to urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1491.

Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief in my testimony. I just want to point out that HB 1491 is one of those rare pieces of proposed legislation that makes so much sense, it is hard to believe that it is not already law.

I will boil it down to this: we do not charge families for their children to use district owned Chromebooks, iPads, textbooks, computer labs, or to participate in field experiences. Why? Because we realize that these tools are important educational components which are vital to ensuring meaningful educational experiences for our students. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the same is true of a nutritious and satisfying lunch. Given that we have a compulsory attendance law in North Dakota, isn't it logical that we provide a nutritional lunch while these children are in our charge? At North Dakota United, we believe that the state that mandates attendance should also cover the cost of school lunches for all children.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I conclude my remarks and urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1491.