



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Dawson Holle**

District 31  
2185 54th Street  
Mandan, ND 58554-8731

H: 701-445-7369

C: 701-214-9506

[dholle@ndlegis.gov](mailto:dholle@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Human Services  
Political Subdivisions

1/15/2023

## **Good morning, Chairman Beltz, members of the House Agriculture Committee,**

For the record, my name is Dawson Holle, and I am honored to serve the great people of District 31. Today, I am here to introduce HB 1132, a bill that would allow schools to offer whole milk and 2% milk through bulk milk dispensers.

For far too long, federal regulations have restricted schools to serving only fat-free and 1% milk. While these restrictions were put in place with the best of intentions, they have had unintended consequences. As a result, milk consumption in schools has declined, causing many kids to . These are not just statistics—they represent missed opportunities to nourish our children with the wholesome, essential nutrients that milk provides.

## **Science Is on Our Side**

We now have the science to support a change. Recent studies have debunked outdated concerns about whole milk and 2% milk, showing that these options are not only safe but vital for the healthy development of children. For example, research published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found that children who drink whole milk have higher vitamin D levels and lower body mass indices compared to their peers who consume lower-fat milk (Boreham et al., 2022). This is not just opinion—this is peer-reviewed, evidence-based science.

Whole milk is a nutritional powerhouse. It provides:

- Calcium to build strong bones. It provides 13 essential nutrients.
- Potassium for muscle function and healthy blood pressure.
- Vitamin D, essential for growth and immunity.
- Healthy fats that support brain development, especially in young children (Vanderhout et al., 2018).

These are not luxuries; they are necessities for the health and development of the next generation.

## **Empowering Schools, Supporting Farmers**

This bill is about more than just nutrition; it's about restoring choice and empowerment. It doesn't mandate that schools serve whole or 2% milk, but simply gives them the option. It's about trusting parents, schools, and communities to make the best decisions for their children.

Furthermore, this bill provides vital support for North Dakota's dairy farmers. Our dairy industry is the backbone of rural communities, and the men and women who work in this field are the stewards of our agricultural heritage. They rise before dawn, work in all conditions, and dedicate their lives to producing the best milk in the nation.

According to the National Milk Producers Federation, expanding milk options in schools could boost fluid milk consumption, directly benefiting farmers by creating a sustainable market for locally produced milk (National Milk Producers Federation, 2023). Supporting this bill isn't just about supporting farmers—it's about investing in the economic vitality of rural North Dakota.

### **A Legacy of Health and Common Sense**

As legislators, we often think about the legacy we want to leave for future generations. This is our chance to leave a legacy of health, common sense, and support for North Dakota's families and farmers.

By passing this bill, we send a powerful message:

- We believe in science.
- We trust schools and parents to make informed decisions.
- We honor the hard work and resilience of our dairy farmers.
- Most importantly, we believe in giving every child in North Dakota the very best.

This is not just a policy decision—it's a commitment to the future. It's about ensuring that every child in this state has the opportunity to grow healthier, stronger, and more prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your time.

---

### **References:**

1. Boreham, C., et al. (2022). *Whole milk and body composition in children*. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 115(3), 570-578.
2. Vanderhout, S., et al. (2018). *The role of dairy fat in childhood development*. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 154(5), 345-352.
3. National Milk Producers Federation. (2023). *The economic impact of dairy in rural communities*. Retrieved from [NMPF website](#).