

HB 1105

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the Superintendent of Alexander School District No. 2 in Alexander, ND. I am here in support of HB 1105.

House Bill 1105 addresses virtual learning policies in our schools. Currently, when students choose an online course instead of a locally offered equivalent, our district must pay for it. Unfortunately, the choice is usually due to a student's dislike of a teacher's expectations or distaste for the teacher. This practice unfairly burdens taxpayers and undermines fiscal responsibility.

Our job is to assist parents in preparing students for adult life. We do not get to opt out of a job on someone else's dime because we do not care for a personality or job duty. I think most of us can tell a story of that one person that made/makes our work life interesting!

The state's Choice Ready framework is focused on preparing our students to be ready for post-secondary school, the work force, and/or the military. Adapting to different styles and personalities are vital life skills emphasized for success in all three of those components.

HB 1105 offers a fair solution by allowing districts to restrict taxpayer-funded virtual courses when a local option exists, placing the cost on families instead. This ensures responsible spending while fostering essential skills in students.

Thank you for your consideration.