

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in **opposition of HB 1172**. My son has struggled with anxiety. When COVID required that all courses move to remote delivery, we found that he performed better online than he had in school. Academically, those two years were his best! When the requirement was over, he did go back to in-person school for two years but his anxiety once again resulted in poor academic performance. This year, we decided to try to move back to online and he has been doing much better. This bill directly affects families like ours. It would leave us in the position of having to choose between the cost of school or putting my son back into a situation where we now know he would perform worse.

By transferring this cost to parents, this legislation could make NDCDE courses inaccessible to families who cannot afford them, forcing many students to forgo vital educational opportunities. We have found that NDCDE provides rigorous courses taught by highly qualified North Dakota teachers. My sons experience interacting with them has been fantastic! Reduced access could result in fewer students meeting graduation requirements or being prepared for postsecondary education and workforce demands, particularly in critical fields. It is quite likely my son would drop out of high school altogether without this access.

I am asking you to please **do not pass** this bill and make sure that ND education remains available to all students.

Sincerely,

Karyn Plumm