

**Garrison Public Schools** "Home of the Troopers" P.O. Box 249

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Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 1172, which seeks to amend subsection 3 of section 15-19-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the payment of fees for courses provided by the Center for Distance Education.

As the Superintendent of Garrison Public Schools, I recognize the critical role that distance education plays in providing students with access to a diverse range of courses, especially those that may not be available within our district's traditional curriculum. House Bill No. 1172 proposes that a student's school district of residence may charge fees for a course, as prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction, to be paid by the student's parent or legal guardian, or by the school district if the course is not offered during the semester or at a time that fits the student's preferred schedule.

This amendment offers greater flexibility and clarity in funding arrangements for distance education courses. By allowing school districts to charge fees under specified conditions, the bill ensures that students can access necessary courses without financial barriers, while also providing districts with a mechanism to manage the associated costs effectively.

The passage of House Bill No. 1172 would be a significant step toward enhancing educational opportunities for students across North Dakota. It supports equitable access to quality education, aligns with the evolving needs of our students, and empowers school districts to make decisions that best serve their communities.

I urge the House Education Committee to pass House Bill No. 1172 and continue to support initiatives that advance the educational experiences of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nick Klemisch Superintendent Garrison Public Schools