

## **Testimony on HB 1456 – In Opposition**

February 8, 2025

Dear House Education Committee:

My name is Jacqueline Beller and I'm a Fargo resident in D46.

I am a person of faith, and I vehemently oppose this bill.

The funds that would be appropriated for this bill (doing the math, it looks like this could cost ND \$35,800,000) could much more effectively be spent to feed and educate our kids. I don't think there would be a sufficient return on our investment here.

There is a separation of Church and State for a reason. If a child or school employee needs to speak with a faith advisor, it is unlikely that they would need to do this during school. We have houses of worship who are equipped to do this and we don't have to pay a cent for it. This proposal is wasteful and unnecessary.

I ask for a Do Not Pass recommendation on this bill.