

Dear Committee Members and Chairman Heinert ,

I am writing with a short story about the issue that lunch charges can cause for teachers. I am a retired teacher from Bismarck Public schools. At the beginning of each year more often than not I would have a couple of students who qualified for free or reduced lunch but the qualifying paper work was either not turned in or had not been processed for a week into the school year. So, every day I would have slips in my mailbox that were to be sent home with the children asking that the money owed be sent to school. Usually, I did this for a week or so and then I would pay the 2 or 3 days that hadn't been allowed because the filing hadn't been completed for those early school days. This wasn't a big burden to me as my husband had a job and we were not young and just starting out.

Please think of how this is a burden to not just the families but to the staff who have to keep the records, to the cafeteria personnel who had to remind students that they couldn't get certain items because they had a charge or were on free lunch and that item was an extra, and to the classroom teacher who cares for these children and doesn't want to see them singled out.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Marcia Patrie

District 47

Bismarck ND