

In opposition to HB1475

Chairman and Committee members,

I come from a proud family of 5. My father worked hard to provide, for his family. My mother supplemented his income by taking on various part-time jobs to accommodate the schedules of 3 children. Although I wasn't aware at the time, I came from a low-middle class family who had parents that didn't believe in asking for or expecting anything without pulling up their boot straps and making it happen on their own. I learned a lot by that example.

It is unfortunate that some parents don't have the ambition or fortitude to complete the necessary paperwork to get assistance if they are in need. We cannot change who they are and only so much can be done for those who don't want to help themselves. The taxpayers of ND should not have to continue to support those parents who are irresponsible and lack the willingness to complete these readily available forms. The NDLSA has been very generous with supplying the needs of families with school age children. ND currently offers school breakfast and lunch programs which provide adequate meals at extremely low costs. \$3.25 for lunch and \$2.25 for breakfast / reduced at .40 and .50 respectively. These meals are much cheaper than what elderly pay on senior menus. I am not shaming families who truly need the free and reduced meals, but many parents, such as mine growing up; and ours now, acknowledge the responsibilities of providing for our families and we do that with pride.

In closing, if we start on this slippery slope, when will it end? Kids attending public schools are required to eat, dress, wear shoes, have good hygiene, transportation, etc... This will open the door for too many "expectations" paid for by other taxpayers, many of which do not have children and/or cannot afford to continue to pay the way for the children of others.

It's not too early to ask this generation to step-up, I just hope it's not too late either.

Respectfully, I ask for a Do Not Pass Vote on HB1475.

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