

Members of the House Education Committee,

I am Brenda Seehafer, an elementary Title I reading and math teacher from Rolla, ND. I am asking for your support on HB 1475, a Universal School Meals Bill.

As an educator, I know that hungry kids have a harder time in school. I also know that feeding all kids when they are at school just makes sense. Kids that are fed perform and learn better; I see this constantly. Universal School Meals would save families over \$1000 *per child* each year. We are in a time when many families are struggling with rising costs, and this relief would make a meaningful difference for working families. Supporting HB 1475 would then circulate more money into the local economy, which is so important in a rural state like North Dakota. This bill would also support learning outcomes for our students because they wouldn't have to worry about being hungry. Passing HB 1475 could lead to decreasing behaviors in our schools and decreasing hunger in our communities.

Please support HB 1475, as this is for our students. Help educators help our students by feeding all of our students, which in turn will lead to better learning.