



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

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**Testimony Before the House Education Committee**  
**HB 1475**  
**Monday, February 3, 2025**

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Nick Archuleta, North Dakota United president, and I am happy to appear before you today to urge a **do pass** recommendation for HB 1475.

Mr. Chair, I will be very brief in my testimony. I just want to point out that HB 1475 is one of those rare pieces of proposed legislation that makes so much sense, it is hard to believe that it is not already the law. I will boil it down to this: we do not charge families for their children to use district owned Chromebooks, iPads, textbooks, computer labs, or to participate in field experiences. Why? Because we realize that these are important educational components which are vital to ensuring meaningful educational experiences for our students.

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, the same is true of nutritious and satisfying school meals. Given that we have a compulsory attendance law in North Dakota, isn't it logical that we provide nutritional meals while these children are in our charge? At ND United, we believe that the state that mandates attendance should also cover the cost of school lunches for all children.

Additionally, there may be no simpler idea proposed by this Legislature to put hard-earned dollars back into working families' pockets than HB 1475. This bill, if passed, will be an investment not only in our children's academic success, but also in thousands of working families across the state.

With that, Mr. Chair, I conclude my remarks and urge **a do** pass recommendation for HB 1475.



