

HB 1475

House Education

Chairman Heinert and Committee Members

I urge a Do Not Pass on HB 1475. It is very burdensome for taxpayers and schools. Many advocates underestimate the sheer cost of providing free school meals to all students regardless of family income. Reduced responsibility and appreciation. Reasonable concerns exist around how universal free meals could diminish students' responsibility and appreciation. This is the responsibility of the parents to provide meals for their children along with providing clothing and shelter. Mandated school lunches for every student could limit dietary choice and flexibility. This would cost the taxpayer \$140,000,000. Plus, 40% of our property tax dollars that fund the schools and 82% of our tax dollars that the state allocates to the public schools. It is time for Parents to be responsible for the upbringing of their children. It is Not the role of government. Most citizens of North Dakota cannot afford any more taxes.

Thank You, Gordon Greenstein