



**Testimony on HB 1475**  
**North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers**  
**3 February, 2025**  
**House Education Committee**

Chair Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers requests that the Committee give a **Do Pass recommendation** on HB 1475, a bill which will provide breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools, nonpublic schools, and tribal schools, at no cost to the student.

There is a significant body of research which shows that students who receive free school meals:

- are less likely to have nutrient inadequacies and are more likely to consume fruits, vegetables, and milk at breakfast and lunch
- have improved attendance, behavior, academic performance, and academic achievement as well as decreased tardiness
- are less likely to experience stigma in the cafeteria
- are hunger free and have the nutrition they need throughout the day to learn.

Social workers are invested in promoting the general welfare of families and communities, and advocate for living conditions which are conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs. North Dakota social workers are proud to be working in a state in which there is bipartisan support for a bill which will further the well-being of our state's children.

Thank you for your review of our testimony, and we respectfully request that you give HB 1475 a Do Pass recommendation.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Loos  
Lobbyist, #342  
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers