

HB 1475

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the Education Committee:

This bill aligns with what is called doing the right thing. Children need to eat. Period. We are willing to pay for schools to educate our children, as we consider our children an investment for the future. Our investment comes short when we expect our children to attempt to try their best at something with an empty stomach.

Others have suggested that this bill further covers for parents that may be too lazy to fill out applications for assistance, and we shouldn't continue to conceal their laziness. This bill has nothing to do with parents or parenting. This is children. We aren't paying to feed the parents. We are paying to feed kids. No one should have ill feelings or ill will towards kids. They are **KIDS!**

Furthermore, we are assuming that the people that don't pay their school lunch account are only those impoverished. I pay for my children's school lunch, but I would rather it not be something I have to monitor. My children can also go to the ala carte menu and charge a ridiculous amount of money right now to feed his friends and himself extra food. Right now, I cannot say to the school, "I only want my son to buy healthy food that is regularly served and not 8 bags of chips and 4 cookies."

So, we don't pay our child's school lunch bill except for at the end of the school year because that is the only way that he cannot run up the account to extraordinary amounts. I can see you roll your eyes are perhaps my parenting, saying I could discipline my son better, maybe. He is also 12 and his prefrontal cortex is still developing so he is irrational at times, usually when he's hungry. He also is easy to influence from his peers if it means they will approve of him.

If school lunches were free, he wouldn't be able to add the extra food on to our tab when he so desires for him or his friends. For him to get extra food, he would have to get us to put money on our account.

Us, and others, not paying our school lunch fee isn't right for the school and is an administrative waste that could be going to some thing else better serving the school and our community.

I urge you to DO PASS HB1475 and continue to show our kids that we want them to excel in school as a whole, all kids, not just my kids, not just your kids, all of the kids.

Thank you.

Abby Lange

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