

HB 1475 House Education Committee

Chairman Heinert and Distinguished Members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to bring HB 1475 before you for your consideration.

For the record, my name is Patrick Hatlestad and I represent District One, which is most of the City of City of Williston.

The Butterfinger in addition to buttering you up, is a snack to help create an improved cognitive function, an atmosphere of positive listening and hopefully an endorsement of HB 1475

Borrowing a quote from C. Kettering "I expect to spend the rest of my life in the future., So I want to be reasonably sure of what kind of future its going to be." You will have a chance today to look into the future of education in ND and determine what that might be.

Currently eight states offer healthy, free meals regardless of parental income to ensure NO student goes hungry.

HB 1475 provides breakfast and lunch to all students of participating entities, including school districts, nonpublic schools, and tribal schools, at no cost to the student ensuring that all ND children have access to nutritious meals, a safety net for many. By meeting basic needs, we will foster better long-term health outcomes, a persistent school readiness hurdle.

The schools shall meet all the requirements set forth by the ND Superintendent of Schools and the national school lunch program.

The main purpose of the bill is to relieve a child's food insecurity by providing two nutritious meals to all school age children, every day of the school year, because nutrition plays such a critical role in a child's readiness to learn, improved cognitive functions, wellbeing, physical performance, school attendance and often behavior. Meals will not only decrease hunger, improve a child's health, increase readiness to learn, and offers a key opportunity to teach lifetime health and nutrition. Perhaps, also an improved educational climate & test scores.

The treasury of the State of North Dakota shall appropriate the sum of \$140 million or the sum as may be necessary to Superintendent of Public Instruction for the purpose of reimbursing the schools for providing these meals less the amount of any other federal or state or private reimbursement the school district receives for providing meals.

I have searched for a dedicated revenue stream to meet the costs. No luck, or conflicts with existing efforts to reduce taxpayer tax costs. Tough economic situations find many parents living paycheck to paycheck. This will help to reduce potential financial stress.

School districts need to make a concerted effort to encourage those parents, eligible, to sign up for federal assistance thus reducing the local/state costs. I would welcome additional suggestions.

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