

North Dakota Legislative Assembly

600 East Boulevard Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Opposition to Additional Graduation Requirements – Support for Student Choice

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill No. 1533, which proposes adding a half-unit of financial literacy as a standalone requirement for high school graduation. While I fully support the importance of financial literacy education, I urge you to reconsider the necessity of adding a new graduation requirement when we have current course options in place in existing coursework.

Our schools have already implemented a range of courses that incorporate financial literacy content, providing students with the necessary skills to navigate personal finance without imposing an additional credit requirement. Courses in economics, business, personal finance, and career and technical education already address these competencies, ensuring students graduate with a strong financial foundation. Mandating a separate class not only increases scheduling challenges for students but also places unnecessary constraints on districts that have already embedded financial literacy instruction in their curricula.

Rather than adding another requirement, I encourage the Legislature to focus on expanding student choice within existing graduation pathways. Schools should be flexible enough to allow students to earn financial literacy credit through various course options that align with their career interests and postsecondary goals. By leveraging the current infrastructure of course offerings, we can promote financial literacy without increasing the burdens on students and school districts.

I respectfully request that you oppose HB 1533 in its current form and instead support policy solutions that enhance student choice while maintaining the integrity of local curriculum decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Liann M. Hanson

Director of Standards-Based Instruction

Fargo Public Schools