

February 3, 2025

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

Our names are Ralph and Kathleen Charley. We live in Minot and are the parents of twelve children. Our journey through our city's schools has spanned many years and has included both public and non-public education. Our youngest child will graduate from Bishop Ryan this year.

We fully support parental rights to effectively direct the education of our children. For our family, the financial struggles to meet the needs of our children's education in non-public schools have been difficult, but necessary that we do so for some of our children, for many different reasons. Choosing a non-public school was and continues to be important to our family. Developing a strong foundation and character, practicing their faith daily, learning about service to those in need, virtuous caring for others and the importance of spiritual development all matter in our children's education.

We respectfully ask that you support meaningful funding that would allow families financial support for the cost of educating their children in non-public schools. We are grateful for your consideration and thank you for this opportunity to express our support of HB 1540.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph and Kathleen Charley