

Testimony of Jeannie Nasers

Before the North Dakota Senate Education Committee on HB 1540

SUPPORT

February 5, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Heinert, and members of the House Education Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 1540. My name is Jeannie Nasers. I live in District 34, and I am a product of Catholic school education and a parent who has chosen to enroll my four children in Christ the King Catholic Montessori School.

I strongly support HB 1540, as well as any legislation that upholds parents' right to direct their child's education. Every child deserves an education that meets their unique needs, nurtures their dignity, and reinforces the values instilled at home. My family currently makes significant financial sacrifices so that our children can attend a private school, and while we believe the investment is worth it, the assistance provided by SB 2303 would greatly ease this burden. More importantly, it would allow more families the opportunity to choose the best educational environment for their children, regardless of financial means.

As both a former student and now a parent, I have personally experienced the profound impact of a faith-based education. Growing up, my Catholic school provided more than just academic instruction—it offered a community that fostered character, independence, and a deep sense of self-worth. As a child with a learning disability, I was not just another student; I was surrounded by teachers who saw my potential and classmates who shared a commitment to virtue and personal growth. Now, I want my children to experience that same kind of nurturing environment—one where faith and education are seamlessly integrated, where they hear at school the same truths we teach at home: that they are valuable, that they matter, and that they have a responsibility to serve others.

HB 1540 would ensure that families **who are already contributing tax dollars to education** have the ability to direct a portion of those funds toward the schooling option that best serves their children. This bill would relieve a financial strain on many families while empowering them to make the best educational choices for their children. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1540 so that all parents, regardless of income, have the ability to choose the educational path that best fits their child's needs. Thank you for your service to North Dakota and for your time on this important matter.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and for your time in considering HB 1540.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Nasers