

Support HB 1553

I am the North Dakota Legislative Director of the BMWED-IBT. We are a labor union that represents railroad workers who fix, build, and maintain our nation's railroads, bridges, and buildings. I am here today to urge the DO PASS of HB 1553 at committee and on the floor.

Our members are parents and community members; we have seen firsthand how vital school meals are for our kids. They're not just about filling bellies; they're about fueling minds. When children have access to nutritious meals, they're more focused, engaged, and ready to learn. It's hard to concentrate on math or reading when you're hungry, as we all know in our adult lives as well.

Not only is this a good bill for ethical reasons, but it is also good for the real-time tax cut it would provide hardworking North Dakota families. Families with children have the hardest time making ends meet month after month. While the legislature is dealing with their constituents upset by the burden of taxes, it has the great opportunity to provide that relief right away. This may seem like a lot of money, but all of it would be going straight to the accounts of taxpayers who put you here to make their lives better.

Some may view this as beneficial legislation; however, we argue that it is a moral obligation to provide meals for our most vulnerable citizens—our future leaders, our children. Let us demonstrate that this state is committed to the welfare of its citizens, rather than just offering subsidies to businesses.

Thank you for considering this important issue. We appreciate your time and dedication to our children's well-being. Please vote YES on HB 1553; my brothers and sisters - your constituents are watching.

Sincerely,

Deven Mantz

ND Legislative Director BMWED-IBT

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