

**Online Testimony in Favor of HB 1553**  
**February 9, 2025**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Hunter Heck. As a private citizen, I am writing to you today in the hope that HB 1553 will not only pass through you, but into law with the stroke of the governor's pen in the future.

I currently work for Montpelier Public School as a Title I Paraprofessional where a lot of our students and their families would benefit greatly from this bill. This can truly be a "tax cut" for all North Dakotans. Families across this state have plenty of expenses they need to worry about such as transportation, healthcare, housing, clothing, education, etc. I have no doubt that parents want to put food on the table for their children. Yet, it can be difficult for some to get money for their children to get fed at school. There's a chance they try to get a second job to pay for their expenses. For others, they cut stuff out of their budget they need. So having this bill into law will give parents a huge weight off their shoulders.

No child, regardless of ZIP code, should starve at school. Our state produces some of the finest agricultural products in the world but can't help school children make sure they get decent meals? Well this bill will make a huge difference for the people of North Dakota.

I urge the passing of HB 1553.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Heck