



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## COMMITTEES:

Human Services  
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Good afternoon Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 1618. This legislation is about more than just funding—it is about ensuring that students attending tribal schools have access to safe, modern, and fully functioning learning environments. For too long, tribal schools have operated with aging infrastructure, struggling to secure the resources necessary to maintain and improve their facilities. This bill provides a crucial step forward by appropriating funds for tribal school infrastructure grants, allowing these schools to apply for support while also requiring a local match to ensure shared investment in these improvements.

Education is the foundation of opportunity, but no student can reach their full potential in a school that lacks the basic facilities needed for a quality learning experience. However, this is not just about bricks and mortar—it is about long-term investment in North Dakota's future. Tribal schools educate students who will become the workforce of tomorrow, contributing to the economic and social fabric of our state. When we invest in their infrastructure, we invest in their ability to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential. House Bill 1618 recognizes this need and offers a practical, responsible path to addressing it.

This is a common-sense approach. The matching funds requirement ensures that schools and their communities are committed partners in these projects while allowing state resources to go further. It is a fiscally responsible way to support school improvements while ensuring accountability. More importantly, it sends a message that North Dakota values all of its students and is willing to make meaningful investments in their future.

I urge this committee to support House Bill 1618 and take a necessary step toward strengthening the educational infrastructure for tribal schools. These students deserve the same opportunities as any other child in our state, and that begins with the buildings where they learn. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your support of this important legislation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I will stand for any questions.