

Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to ask you to support HB 1624 for universal breakfast and lunch for all ND students. Food costs continue to rise for families, and along with it so do lunch prices at school. Just this school year our breakfast and lunch prices both had an increase.

For lunch alone for a week for my three children, it would be \$78.75 - and that is assuming my high schooler does not get "doubles" if he is really hungry as his almost six-foot-tall body keeps growing. In a typical month this would be \$315-400 just for lunches.

Due to the cost I tend to pack lunches for my kids, but even then, with current grocery prices it can be a burden some weeks. Universal free lunch – for public and private schools - would give our family the breathing room to know that if our grocery budget is tight in the moment, my kids breakfast and lunch would still be taken care of. I know for many of the families in our social circle and beyond the same sentiment would be shared.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the matter.

Samantha Bice
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Minot