

Dear ND Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB 1624 and the effort to provide free breakfast and lunch to North Dakota students.

Although my family's children attend private school, the availability of free meals has a meaningful impact on our household. Not having to pay for school meals makes private school tuition more accessible for families like ours and allows us to continue prioritizing both a high-quality education and healthy, nourishing food for our children. This support helps families make choices that best meet their children's educational and nutritional needs.

North Dakota is a state rich in resources and opportunity. With the wealth and stability our state enjoys, it is worth asking why we would not invest more directly in our youth. Children are the future of our communities, our workforce, and our economy. Ensuring they are well-fed and ready to learn is a practical, effective way to support their success and long-term well-being.

Programs like this also make North Dakota an even more appealing place to live and raise a family. Supporting families through universal access to school meals strengthens communities, reduces financial stress, and demonstrates that our leadership values children and education as foundational priorities. HB 1624 is a positive step in that direction.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important legislation. I encourage you to support HB 1624 for the benefit of North Dakota students and families.

Sincerely,

Jalisa Tinnes