



Fr. Jady Nelson  
School President  
316 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Minot, ND 58703

January 21, 2026

Honorable Representatives and Senators:

HB 1624 is the result of a continuing political conversation about the fittingness of a universal school lunch program. I applaud the legislature for taking up this bill in this special legislative session, which is where this issue should be dealt with. Paying for school lunches ought not be legislated through a constitutional amendment.

I support the passage of HB 1624 as it is written. The children that attend Bishop Ryan Catholic School are North Dakota students. Our students are children of North Dakota taxpayers, worthy of investment, worthy of educating, worthy of feeding. Our school already participates in the USDA school lunch program; there is no reason to keep us from the opportunity to opt-in to this program, if passed.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jady Nelson".

Fr. Jady Nelson