

To: Chairperson and Legislator Committee

From: Beth Beck

Subject: Support for Free School Lunches HB 1624

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Free School Lunches HB 1624**, which would provide free school lunches to all students, regardless of income, in ND.

No child should have to learn on an empty stomach. Yet, every day, students across our state face hunger that impacts their ability to focus, participate, and thrive academically. Free school meals are not just a matter of nutrition—they are an investment in equity, health, and the future of our communities.

Research consistently shows that access to nutritious meals improves academic performance, reduces absenteeism, and supports healthy development. Universal free lunch programs also remove the stigma and administrative burdens associated with income-based eligibility, ensuring that every child is treated with dignity.

By passing this bill, we can:

- **Eliminate hunger in classrooms** and give every student a fair chance to succeed.
- **Support working families** by reducing financial strain.
- **Promote health and well-being** through consistent access to balanced meals.

I urge you to vote in favor of **Free School Lunches HB 1624** and take this important step toward ensuring that no child in our state goes hungry at school.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the well-being of our children.

Sincerely,

Beth Beck

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