

Chair and Members of the Legislature,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1624, which establishes a Universal School Meals Program for North Dakota students in grades K-12.

It is a well-known practical and medical fact that children who have proper nourishment do much better in the areas of concentration, attendance and academic achievements in the short and long-term.

I have been shocked to learn from North Dakota, teachers and principles that hunger exists even areas such as Bismarck.

Applying a school meal program to all students remove stigma and supports working families.

This is an excellent investment in North Dakota's future citizens.

Thank you.

Sincerely.

Raymond S Gruby, M. D.