

Dear Sir or Madam and Education committee Members,

Thank you for your time and service to our State!

My name is Marie Franks and I live in the Minot area. My husband and I moved to ND 18 years ago with our young daughter at the time. I am a retired police officer from Canada and have a master's degree in human resource administration from the University of Scranton, in PA.

My husband and I moved to ND from PA for a job opportunity at Trinity Hospital where he is an Emergency/Trauma physician. In our first visit to Minot, which was also our first visit to ND, I was tasked with touring the city to learn about the amenities and educational opportunities available to families with school age children. I can tell you that my husband and I would NOT have chosen to move to Minot, ND had there not been a Catholic School available to help us in educating our child.

Our two children have been part of the Bishop Ryan Catholic School where we have paid tuition for 18 years. In that time, our local school district gladly took our tax dollars, while our children received no educational benefit from them. There was even a time I asked them for small assistance and was originally denied the help until I pressed the situation, and suggested I would turn in all the receipts for the OT services I had paid for out of pocket that should have been their responsibility for my child with ADHD and Autism. By I digress, I believe that educational dollars should follow the child, the student who is the primary beneficiaries of the monies.

Providing school choice or educational freedom in ND assists parents with finding the right educational product for their child and it assists employers (like the healthcare industry that recruit out of state) to attract and retain candidates to our beautiful state. Potential work candidates look at many factors when relocating their families, and an important consideration is education.

Attracting new people to ND means providing more options to parents and passing this bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you!