

Hello House Education Committee,

My name is Keary Aune. I live in Bismarck, and I am a parent who is trying to keep my children enrolled in Light of Christ Catholic Schools. I support SB2295, but I am in support of all school choice bills that support parent autonomy and the right to provide an education for my child. I support SB2295 because of the financial strain that choosing private education puts on families. I believe that all families should be able to choose the education that is best for their child, whether public or private, however, many cannot make that choice because they simply cannot afford it. My family is currently trying to figure out how we will be able to continue to choose the best education for our children as more of our children reach school age. We believe that public education is still good, however it is not the best choice for our family, and at times conflicts with our religious views. Choosing Catholic education allows us to maintain our freedom of religion without having to undermine teachers by contradicting them at home. Providing support for private education will allow my family and countless others to make the choice that is the best fit for their children, not choose between their child's education and financial hardship. I understand this would add costs for the state, but it would cost far more for public education to accommodate the closure of private schools who are relieving much of the public burden of education. I urge you to vote in favor of SB2295.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and your time on SB2295,

Sincerely,

Keary and family