

This letter serves as a written testimony in opposition to North Dakota House Bill 1255.

I'm writing to express my deep concern about House Bill 1255, which would cut public funding for PBS. For me, PBS is more than just another frivolous public expense—it's a source of inspiration, education, and trustworthy news.

Growing up, I loved watching Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers. Those shows taught me important values like kindness and respect, and helped shape the person I am today. Now, as an adult, I've come to appreciate the PBS NewsHour for its honest and comprehensive reporting. This became especially important to me after the recent lawsuit between Dominion Voting Systems and Fox News. It was shocking to see a major news network admit to lying to its viewers without apologizing or correcting the record. In contrast, PBS NewsHour offers a compelling alternative: unbiased news that covers not just what's happening in the U.S., but also around the world. It helps me understand that the world is bigger than the state of North Dakota or the United States.

Today, my young nephew is enjoying the same educational programs I loved as a kid. PBS is extremely important for him and for the 72% of children in the U.S. who watch its educational content every year (Source: <https://weta.org/about/community/stats>). It's not just entertainment; it's a way to engage kids in learning and help them grow into respectful, impactful, and caring adults.

I'm asking you to vote against this bill and continue providing public funding, because PBS matters to me, to my family, and to our community. It provides essential educational and news programming that benefits people of all ages, and I believe it's worth preserving for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jacob F.
Full-Time Resident and Taxpayer
West Fargo, ND