

The Honorable Members of the House Education Sub Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives

**Re: Support for HB 1356**

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge your positive support of House Bill 1356, which allows very specifically defined, patriotic societies, such as Boy Scouts of America and the Girls Scouts of the USA, to speak to students during regular school hours at each public school during the first quarter of each academic school year to explain how students may participate or join. The building principals would still dictate the time, place, and manner of the presentation.

These organizations complement the educational goals of our state and school districts. I have attached a document that shows the comparison of what the Cub Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America does to support the 40 Developmental Assets used by the state as a model of positive youth outcomes.

I am an Eagle Scout as well as three Scouts. I know first-hand the added value that Scouting brings to the young women and young men who join either the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts USA.

My life was changed because of Scouting as was my entire family. It has helped immensely as we have moved across the country, we have been able to transfer to local Scouting groups and my children have immediately had new friends in Scouting. I, unfortunately, have run into others who moved that just figured that because they did not see Scouts at the school that there was not a group they could transfer to. It is this simple community awareness that I believe this bill fixes. Many families simply are just not aware that it was an option to join some of these groups like the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts because they did not know they existed in their school community.

I hope that you will look favorably on HB 1356. I believe that the future of our community and organizations depend on it.

Sincerely,

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