

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
OF NORTH DAKOTA

January 25, 2021
House Education Committee
Testimony in Support of HB1369

Chairman Mark Owen and members of the Committee, my name is Linda Thorson. I am a former educator of 26 years and am the State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. I am here today on behalf of our North Dakota members in support of HB1369.

As our state's largest public policy women's organization, CWA of North Dakota has seven core issues, education being one of them. We strongly support the provisions in HB1369.

HB1369 meets Concerned Women for America's goal of providing quality of education to a level of excellence in academic achievement. This legislation helps parents or other individuals with legal authority acting on behalf of the program participant (K-5th grade child) to effectively use multiple resources to enhance the student's academic skills and learning environment.

It was both a privilege and a challenge to work with struggling learners in my career as a Speech Language Pathologist in the public school. My role was to develop effective strategies to help young elementary-age children laboring to reach grade level academic skills in reading and language. Some children needed more time and practice; others benefited directly from extra professional help and support to achieve gains in grade level skills.

Learning environments play a significant role in student success. This legislation provides the financial support needed for parents to choose an educational pathway that best fits their child's needs, through a variety of ways, such as through additional instructional material, the hiring of an educational service provider or through the learning environment of a non-public school setting.

Best practices in education involves enhancing a child's academic skills. At a critical time in a child's educational life, 1369 provides a direct benefit to elementary aged children, allowing care givers to choose a pathway that best fits their student's educational needs.

Again, the goal of providing quality of education to a level of excellence in academic achievement, is achieved in this legislation. As the state director for CWA of North Dakota, I urge a "do pass" on HB 1369.