

House Education Committee
Chairman Mark Owens
January 25, 2021

Testimony of Shane Goettle
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HB 1369

Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Shane Goettle, and I am here today as a lobbyist for the State Association of Nonpublic Schools.

The nonpublic schools in North Dakota are a vital component to the education framework in our state. Very often, public and nonpublic schools work together very well. We have experienced that in many ways, such as through North Dakota high school activities and, more recently, in the distribution of CARES ACT dollars to meet the challenges both public and nonpublic school experienced from the threat posed by COVID-19.

When a family chooses a nonpublic school option for their child, it does generate public savings. In the 2019-20 school year, for example, with 6,770 students, the nonpublic schools saved North Dakota taxpayers in excess of \$160 million dollars* per biennium. These dollars are then available for other public purposes.

With regard to HB 1369 which you have before you today, the State Association of Nonpublic Schools supports any effort to empower parents in the education of their children. In HB 1369, that includes two things: giving parents the tools they need to assist and enhance their child's education and allowing parents to select the education environment that suits their family and their child the best.

On behalf of 6,770 students in nonpublic schools in North Dakota and their parents we ask for your support of HB 1369. Thank You.

**NDDPI School Finance Facts (Fall 2019) Non-Public enrollment of 6,770 students X average cost of education per pupil \$12,435.*