

House Education Committee

Chairman Mark S. Owens

January 26, 2021

Testimony of Tracy Friesen,

Academic Advancement Coordinator

State Association of Non-Public Schools

tfriesen@lightofchristschools.org

701-223-4113

HB 1375

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Tracy Friesen, Academic Advancement Coordinator at Light of Christ Catholic Schools and I am writing to you on behalf of the State Association of Non-Public Schools and in support of HB 1375.

Dual-credit options allow students to better prepare themselves for college-level coursework in a high school setting. Students who enroll in dual credit courses are held to the standards of a college student while working to receive college credit. Completing these courses allows students the opportunity to enter college with a head start in general course requirements meaning they can take more classes or even shorten their amount of time for an anticipated graduation date.

A do pass on HB 1375 would alleviate higher education debt by providing additional affordability along with giving students extra incentive to enroll in various offered dual-credit courses.

Not only will this bill give students confidence in their abilities when entering a higher education setting but it will help save them money. Ultimately, dual-credit courses help give students a jumpstart to student success and quicker access to the workforce.

Nonpublic high schools have offered dual-credit courses successfully for years through the North Dakota University System and private universities and colleges in North Dakota. HB 1375 is a much-needed move in the direction to give students the tools and experience they need to be successful individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.