

Chairperson, Representative Owens and members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Krisanna Peterson. I am a mother and para educator from Bismarck. I am in favor of HB 1413. Normally, some students qualify for a reduced or free lunch but under this bill, all students would qualify. I've seen families that don't qualify for a free lunch, struggle to pay for lunch and often the kids don't eat. Even middle class families can struggle at times to pay for lunch. If you have ever gone without food, you understand it affects the students performance and behavior in school. For some kids the only food they get is at school. I have worked with kids from Pre-K to high school age. I can tell you there are more kids than we might suspect that need lunch. I urge you to help our kids get at least one or two nutritious meals. There is no better way to help the next generation than give them food to eat. The student does their best when they have eaten. I recall working at the elementary school when a student in line for their meal had a negative balance on their account. The food was thrown away and they ended up with a piece of bread or a small sandwich. How embarrassing not to mention traumatic for the student. It can happen to any of us when we might not have enough money in their account.

I am asking for a DO PASS for HB 1413. Our kids are our legacy. Thank you!

I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

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