

**House Education Committee**

**Chairman Mark S. Owens**

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**Testimony of Tracy Friesen,**

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**State Association of Non-Public Schools**

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**SB 2141**

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Tracy Friesen, Academic Advancement Coordinator at Light of Christ Catholic Schools and I am speaking to you on behalf of the State Association of Nonpublic Schools. We are in opposition of the original bill but in support of the amendment Representative Heinert has introduced.

The amendment before you is about giving equity in the options. Public schools have the option to have the ACT funded for juniors if they opt to use this as an accountability measure. In the current year, 66.58% have used the ACT. The current bills unintentionally excludes private schools, homeschools, and BIA schools. The presented amendment would maintain the status quo current access to all students taking the ACT.

This option should be equitably available to all juniors in the state of North Dakota to promote college and career readiness and state scholarship opportunities.

Removing a state funded ACT test for a specific class of high school juniors who attend private schools, homeschools, or BIA schools is unfair and puts a burden on some parents and not on others in the public system.

Ultimately, equity for readiness opportunities post high school is what is being sought for ALL students in North Dakota.

This amendment, if adopted, will continue to preserve the status quo. The State Association of Nonpublic Schools supports Representative Heinert's amended version.

Thank you for your consideration.