

Chairman Heinert and Committee Members,

The time has come to begin the process of unshackling the chains that have bound school choice. Parents have reached a point where they are demanding better options for their children's education. I believe HB 1532 is a good step in that direction. Parents have a fundamental right to choose how their children will be educated. To tax the parent for educational purposes and then refuse to allow school choice is unconscionable.

To say the North Dakota Constitution does not allow it is a strawman. The Constitution states "No money raised for the support of the public schools of the state shall be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school." What is a sectarian school? Sectarian by definition refers to a sect. A sect is a group of people having a common leadership, set of opinions, philosophical views, political principles, etc. This describes exactly what the public education system has become. There is no longer a benign public education system just teaching the basics of math, science, reading, writing and history. The public education system has become a sectarian school by aligning itself with specific ideologies. Therefore, if tax dollars are being used to support this form of sectarian education they must be used to support other sectarian schools. It is time to level the playing field. There is nothing like competition to bring real improvement and change to an industry. The children of North Dakota deserve it.

Please support HB 1532 and set the people of North Dakota free!

Thank you,

Rachel Haidle