

Ryan Christenson

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▶ **North Dakota Legislative Assembly**
Re: House Bill 1532

Thank you for this opportunity to share my family's story and give testimony in support of HB-1532.

My family moved to Dickinson in late Summer of 2022 for several reasons. The most important being that we no longer felt that the Twin Cities was the right place to raise our four children. As we learned more about Dickinson and North Dakota as a whole, we realized that unlike Minnesota, North Dakota is actively working to protect our children. This Bill is yet another example of this great State focusing on the future of children rather than the social issues of the day.

For our family, it is important that part of our children's education is Faith based. We chose Trinity Catholic Schools in Dickinson, fully understanding that we would need to sacrifice some things in order for this to work financially. We made this decision willingly, but it is certainly a major financial commitment. The passing of this Bill would be a tremendous help to families like ours that want to raise their kids in a faithful setting.

In addition to our story, I believe this Bill is hugely important for all North Dakota families that would like to explore non-public options. I believe that many times the decision of whether or not to send children to a faith-based (or any other non-public) school comes down to finances. This Bill would provide much needed relief which might be the determining factor for many families.

Thank you for bringing this Bill forward – it proves once again that my wife and I made the right decision moving to this State.



Ryan Christenson
1/30/2023
