

To the North Dakota House Education Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1532. Every child deserves an education that is best suited to their needs. This is not currently possible for many families due to the cost of private school. Some of my children attended and graduated from public school. Some started in public school but finished in private school due to bad experiences in public school. Choice is crucial. Providing a small amount of assistance to families of private school students would be immensely helpful. These families already pay taxes for education and it would be wise to have some of those tax dollars follow them to the school of their choice. Choice and competition will only make our students and education system stronger.

I would encourage an amendment that addresses the definition of qualified schools to include those schools just across the border (within 25 miles of the border) in the neighboring states of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana. Cities such as Fargo have numerous students attending a tri-city community private school in Moorhead (example: Park Christian School).

Thank you for your consideration.

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