

House Bill 1532

Hearing date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – 2:30 pm

**In support**

My name is Daniel Neff. I attended private education kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade along with my two siblings. I attended two public colleges in North Dakota and received the State Scholarship. I moved to Minnesota for 3 years, but returned to Bismarck to plant roots and to send my children through the same private school system I attended. I am now employed by that private school system.

I believe families should have the choice between private and public-school offerings. Private school can be cost prohibitive. I am grateful for the economic sacrifice my parents made to send me to private school, though it is not an economic reality for every family. I believe that the existence of private schools and their accessibility benefits all North Dakotans.

However, I do not believe that cost should be a barrier for families in identifying the best fit for their child's academic needs. North Dakota public and private schools both have strong academic outcomes, but a student may succeed better in one environment versus the other.

Not every community or state has private school options and am grateful that North Dakota does. It is in the best interest of academic outcomes for students and for the general community that private schools continue to prosper hand-in-hand with public schools in North Dakota.

Thank you,

Daniel Neff

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