

To whom it may concern,

This testimony is in support of house bill 1532. As a primary care physician and specialist in the Ward county school district, I can personally attest to the validity and importance of this bill. Quite too often, I encounter so many patients, friends, and colleagues who are unable to afford a specialized and private education outside of the public school system. Given that a small school such as Bishop Ryan elementary school and high school here in Minot has such a minute amount of funding compared to public school districts, it becomes necessary for the school itself to charge a high tuition in order to cover basic teacher salaries and overhead needs. This makes it extremely challenging for the average family who wishes to partake in a parochial and classical education plan. For many families, it is a priority to have their children attend a private school in the wake of some of the significant changes that have occurred based on political viewpoints inside the public school system. Many decisions by lawmakers and public school officials have led to policies that are contrary to the personal and religious beliefs of parents and families who think otherwise. For this matter, I believe it is of the utmost importance to consider implementing this bill and to provide funding to these types of private education systems which in turn can offset the tuition cost for these children.

I am happy to offer further input at the request of the committee moving forward.

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