

North Dakota House Education Committee
Chairman Pat Heinert
February 1, 2023

Support for House Bill 1532

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jessica Pathroff. I am the principal at Saint Anne Elementary School in Bismarck. Today, however, I am not writing to you in my official capacity as a principal but rather as a parent of two young children who will attend nonpublic schools in the near future.

House Bill 1532 directs the superintendent of public instruction to establish and administer an educational reimbursement program, wherein the state contributes a portion of the cost of qualified education expenses of nonpublic school students.

I wholeheartedly support this bill because it allows for greater freedom of choice, enabling parents to choose the best education environment for their children. It's no surprise that cost is a barrier to many families wishing to send their children to nonpublic schools. If this bill passes, families who could not otherwise afford nonpublic education would now have the choice to send their children to nonpublic schools. Furthermore, the legislation will help all the families already sending their children to nonpublic schools because those families would see their tuition expenses decrease.

My family will choose to send our children to nonpublic schools because we believe it is the best education environment for our children. All North Dakotan families should have that choice. Therefore, I respectfully request your support of HB 1532.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Pathroff