

January 31, 2023

RE: HB 1532

To: House Education Committee Members

When we first moved to Minot, ND in 2005, we intended to put our three children in public school. However, when we realized how large the schools here were, we knew that our children would get lost. Our oldest was very quiet and shy, and our second was a child that would do the littlest possible in school unless she was challenged to do more. We strongly felt that a smaller school with smaller classes sizes would be the best choice for them.

The decision to send them to Bishop Ryan Catholic School was a very scary one financially. At the time, my husband was only a Tech Sergeant in the Air Force. Because of his schedule, I was not able to work outside the home (because we also had 2 younger children at home). Our income was so low that we qualified for WIC. We made the choice and sacrificed to make it work, but it was difficult. It would have been so much easier if we could have been reimbursed for even part of the tuition.

We have owned property in Minot, paying property taxes that help support the public school system for many years now, while also paying tuition out of our own pocket to send our children to a private school that best meets our needs. We have gotten nothing in return for our "investment" in the public school system. This Educational Reimbursement Bill would help to somewhat even out that imbalance. Furthermore, we know that there are other families that would prefer to have the choice to send their children to a private school, but just cannot afford it.

Please support HB 1532 so that parents can make their school choice based on what best meets their children's needs, rather than just on what they can afford.

Sincerely,

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