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Subject: House Bill 1532

Greetings,

As a registered voter and lifelong resident of North Dakota I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1532 and ask of your support for the bill also.

My husband and I are parents to 4 children and we have experienced both public and private educational experiences in our family. Our 2 oldest children attended public school from K – Grade 12 and they received a fine education. Our 3rd child attended public school up until she was ready to enter her freshman year of high school. At that time, *she* approached *us* about the idea of her going to Bishop Ryan for high school rather than going to our public high school in Minot. She didn't know **any** of the students at Bishop Ryan but still felt strongly that it was a better fit for her for several reasons.

My husband and I understood very well all of the reasons our daughter wanted to make this change and we supported her 100%. However, this also meant that we would have to find a way to pay for her tuition to attend a private school. As parents we had always wished we could send our kids to Catholic School rather than public school but truly, we felt we could not afford to send all 3 of our older children to private school at the same time. To make a long story short, we made some significant changes in our life to work tuition into our budget to send our 3rd child to private school. We even downsized our home at that time to make everything work financially. If we had only known years before what BRCS had to offer, we would have sacrificed so much more to have sent our 2 oldest children to BRCS as well.

We had **no idea** the true sense of comfort we would feel when sending our child off to school each day. Our fears for her safety were **gone**. She was free to be herself and no longer had to refrain from speaking about her faith or praying openly. The **virtues of those that she spent every school day** with were the same as hers. These new feelings of peace and safety while at school **allowed for her mind to be open to learning** rather than being cluttered with the things that drove her away from the public school system. Our 4th child started her education in kindergarten at BRCS and we have no plan of returning to the public school system because we have lived and experienced the difference for our family.

Parents should not have to pay for their child to experience the comfort, freedom, virtues and numerous other things that a private school can offer when these are the things that can open their child's mind to learning. Why do we attend school if not to learn?

With the ways that children are allowed to express themselves in public school today, it seems unconstitutional that as tax paying citizens of this state, we should have to **pay** for our child to attend a school where **they** are allowed to express themselves through **virtuous actions** that reflect who **they** are and who **they were born to be**.

I ask that you please vote in favor of House Bill 1532 to support an equal opportunity for all children to receive their education in an atmosphere that best suits their needs without financial hardship for their families standing in the way.

Sincerely,
Dawn Hanson