

Dear Legislators,

I urge you to consider approval of House Bill 1532. I have personally benefitted from the opportunities afforded to students who attend private, catholic institutions. Additionally, I have dedicated my career to the mission of Catholic education and have witnessed its value innumerable times. This bill has the potential to allow many students an opportunity to learn in an environment which more closely reflects the values and beliefs they hold so dearly. That is what true education is, providing students with the environment and tools necessary to learn more about themselves, others, and the world. We in Catholic education are convicted that in order to do so, there is a great need to incorporate the importance with a relationship with God, something that is often lacking in the world of public education.

This bill would not only benefit the students, but the members of our community. As you know Catholic school educators often fall below the average income for teachers, which is already a minimal salary considering the great responsibilities of teachers. Through affording students and families refunds for tuition expenses, enrollment could increase and there are greater opportunities for families to give back to the schools, allowing for the possibility of higher and more competitive wages for private school employees. Please support this Bill for the sake of our students and the community!

Sincerely,

Alex Cournoyer