

Dear Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am in favor of House Bill 1532. I currently have four children enrolled in the St. John Paul II Catholic Schools in Fargo, ND and will continue to do so. One of the biggest challenges every year is the cost of tuition. When speaking with my friends who don't send their children to the St. John Paul II Catholic schools, they cite **cost as the number one factor why they're unable to**. Many of them opt for homeschooling or public schools, but if Catholic schools were more affordable, they would enroll their children.

Every person has a right to an education, and every person should be able to choose the school where they can receive that education. Having public schools available to choose from is great, but it's not a one size fits all. Having schools like St. John Paul II Catholic schools provides people like me an opportunity for my children to receive an education that is enriched with the tradition of our Catholic faith.

Funds are already given to public schools so that children may attend them basically free of charge. That same benefit should also be given to non-public schools, which this bill offers as a step in that direction.

Please vote yes for HB 1532. We need to move our state in the direction of allowing families to choose where their children receive an education without cost being a limiting factor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilburn  
Resident in Fargo, ND