

Honored Committee Members,

February 1, 2023

My Name is Rod Thompson. I am writing to you, regarding HB 1532, in order to impress upon you the importance of properly educating our children. In that regard, I also ask you to consider the need for fairness and logic in assisting families, financially, who struggle with tuition in our current economic environment. I will try to be succinct in both my position and request.

I understand that "public education" is provided, because of the tax money that we, as constituents, pay into the government coffers. However, our public education system has been woefully corrupted from its original intent. Today, it is rife with a largely one-sided political ideology, that at least half of America does not agree with - as did not most of our Founding Fathers, nor God Almighty - and I have watched it creep deeper and deeper into our educational institutions over the last thirty years.

I had the joy of having raised eight children, beginning in 1988. Currently I have my last school age child in Kindergarten, at St. Anne's grade school. In addition, I have spent 9 years in Indiana University's B.A. programs, working through a triple major in the early 2000s, finally (money-willing) finishing up my first B.A. degree and will be finishing the second in a year or so.

Thus, I have seen the changes to our institutions, from two different perspectives. It is rather disturbing how the subtle indoctrination twenty years ago has become so prevalent in the last seven years. I have even begun to see this woke cancer worming its way into Bismarck Schools, with catch-phrases like "stakeholder," "equity," and "diversity." Terms that are diametrically opposite to everything our nation was founded upon, and to what liberty holds dear. Not to mention, these are divisional, segregational terms. We once fought a Civil War to end this type of class division thinking, and become the great melting pot that America was meant to be.

So, due to this growing malignancy within public education, I chose to enroll my youngest son into the Catholic School system. I am not Catholic. However, the Light of Christ Schools System offers a high level of mitigation from the rampant wickedness inundating public schools today. I pay full tuition, as I am not a member of the Catholic Church. But, I willingly do it in order to protect my son during his most innocent and malleable years. I, like many, have lost all trust in public education. I no longer even consider it "education." Political and deviant ideologies have no place in the education system of minors.

With that being said, I would humbly ask you to consider the logical position of tuition reimbursement, partial reimbursement, or even a tuition voucher system that we can use with any legitimate Christian school of our choice. It is extremely unfair that our tax money is taken from us, to fund a failing public education system that we do not support, and then we must pay tuition additionally, in order to place our children in a school that will actually do its most fundamental job - Education; unbiased, non-revisionist, and honest. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Rod Thompson
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