

Dear legislators,

**We write to you today in enthusiastic support of HB 1532, the educational reimbursement bill.**

Three of our children attend Bishop Ryan Catholic School in Minot. It is a choice we didn't know we would be making until we enrolled our oldest at Bishop Ryan's Little Lions preschool. Once we experienced how amazing the educational experience was at Bishop Ryan, we knew there was no way we could send our children to the public schools in Minot. This is not to say that the public school system is not important or necessary, but it is not for us. We choose to have our children in an environment where they are challenged with a different (and in our mind, superior) type of educational model than exists in the public school system in Minot.

As parents, we have sacrificed to make sure our children can attend school at Bishop Ryan. Our rising property taxes are supporting the public school system that we do not participate in, but we have no ability to access these funds for our own use. As taxpayers, we should have the opportunity to use our dollars to educate our children in the way we see fit.

North Dakota has an opportunity to be a leader and join with other states around the country, led by Arizona and Iowa, that are empowering parents to make the best educational choices for their children.

It is so important to offer different educational experiences in our state. Therefore, we encourage you to support the parents and children who choose what is best for them, and **vote YES on HB 1532.**

Sincerely,  
Perry & Melissa Olson  
Minot, ND