

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of ND House Bill 1532. I have attended private school for nearly all of my educational career. My family chose that option for personal and faith reasons. The tuition funds were always found, but I know there is a lot that my parents had to go without in order to make that payment. While they chose to pay tuition, they were also expected to pay for the local public school district via their taxes. Now that I am a parent and property owner, I am seeing my tax statement. I am also faced with the choice of where to send my children to school. My husband and I are planning to send our children to a private school for similar reasons to that of my parents.

That being said, I am also an educator in a district outside of the one I am a resident of. When we received our tax statement this past year, we discovered our tax payment to the local public school district was more than what we are paying to the state, city and county combined. As a property owner that does not work within the district my taxes go to nor my children attend, we are receiving zero benefits from the taxes I am paying. While we are making choice to send our children to a private school, it is difficult and unfair that we are expected to pay such a high price for the freedom of education our country offers.

The current state of our economy makes it difficult to make ends meet the way it is, and the additional tuition payments for private education leaves me, and many other families, feeling that the ability to exercise our right to private education very difficult and in some cases, impossible. This bill will provide many families with the ability to exercise the given right to choose the education their children are getting, whether it come in the form of public or private.