

Paul Hensrud  
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RE: **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 1532**

Dear Representative Heinert and members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1532. As a North Dakota resident and parent of school aged children, I believe school choice is something North Dakota should consider pursuing. I believe this would provide ND residents to choose the education path that fits best for their child and will also enhance Workforce Development opportunities. As ND continues to compete with other states for new business and employees, this would be a bill that would make ND more competitive in those recruitment efforts as other states continue to develop School Choice bills of their own. I would ask you to consider some of the states that have already passed bills in 2023, Iowa and Utah being 2 of them.

My suggestion would be to get some form of School Choice in place, but consider how these other states have built their programs as well since they have been modeled on other states plans already. I have some hesitancy in payments made directly from the state to a private school and feel the Educational Savings Account (ESA) model that these 2 states have put in place would provide more flexibility and potentially allow the state to further enhance this bill in the future by providing some amount of dollars for Homeschool families to purchase curriculum and potentially Public School families for additional education services like paid tutoring as an example.

I ask for a **“do pass”** recommendation on HB 1532.

Sincerely,

Paul Hensrud