

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express my support for HB 1532.

Growing up, my parents chose private education for our family because they valued the faith-based aspects that our non-public school could offer. We were a working class family, but my parents worked hard at jobs supporting our community to support the public education offered here (through taxes) as well as the school that best provided for the educational experience they wanted for their children (through tuition).

As a parent now who has made the same decision for my own children, I ask at what point do my children matter to our state? My children are already contributing to our community, and my hope is that their roots will keep them here to provide for a bright future for all North Dakotans; at the same time, the same state that I am raising them to respect and work for has effectively told them that they don't matter because they are taking part in a non-public education.

I am lucky to know many great educators, both public and non-public, but I know that the choice I've made for the education of my children is the best option for our family and for raising them in the way that I expect for them to become the next caretakers of our society. I ask that you support HB 1532 to ensure that parents like me have the opportunity to choose the best educational situation for their own children, and that our state will recognize that all students, public and non-public, are important investments in our future.