

I support HB 1532. I would like to testify in favor of House Bill 1532. While this has been too long in getting here, it is finally here and overdue to pass this bill.

Private schools relieve a huge burden from the public schools. The burden includes classrooms, teachers, retirement, etc. Students from private schools perform as good or better than public schools. Most parents and grandparents are very concerned about the decline of education quality in public schools, and are also concerned of the anti-Christian values being taught at public schools. Recognizing the achievements of private schools, it is time for pass an educational reimbursement program. While bill language stating "...a sum not less than fifteen percent and not more than thirty percent of the per-student payment rate..." I don't believe that 15% is nearly enough recognizing the superior education and the huge relief of the burdens previously mentioned.

Iowa and Arizona have school choice funding that is approximately 75% of the per-student payment rate. I believe ND students attending private school should receive at least 75%. Are not our ND students deserving of that which is received for school choice students in IA and AZ? Fifteen to 30% is a good start, but it isn't nearly enough.

Dual credits are provided under North Dakota University System to high school sophomore through seniors. These credits are used to meet the requirements of high school graduation. The approximate cost per credit is approximately \$150/credit hour. This bill should be expanded to cover dual credits under NDUS to reimburse 100% of qualified dual credit fees paid by home schooled parents.

This bill excludes home school educational reimbursement. Recognizing and understanding the costs associated with dual credits administered NDUS and participating colleges, it would be a huge benefit to alleviate tuition costs to receive credits that are used to meeting high school education requirements. If 100% is too high, at a minimum 50% of these fees should be reimbursed and not to exceed \$3000 per calendar year.

Please don't listen to the associations of superintendents, teachers and school boards. These associations have their interests above those of the k-12 students. If you are hearing it from a parent, please pay attention.

Concluding, establishing an educational reimbursement program should have been here long ago. It is time to pass an amended bill that pays 75% of the per student payment. With huge concerns that the public schools are slipping, please pass this bill (with amended improvements) and let us make North Dakota Education Great Again!

Regards

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