Kyle, Hannah, Henry, & Leonard Erickson 609 6<sup>th</sup> St., Page, ND 58064 Legislative District # 22

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am a  $4^{th}$  generation resident of Page, dating back to 1898, my children Henry (5) and Leonard (3), are the  $5^{th}$  generation of my family to live in Page. I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill #2328.

Education facilities have always been a cornerstone of Page, and any community in our great state. Our children have the opportunity for top-notch education in our public schools. Having a school in our community is crucial for our children, and our community as well. When we have a gathering at our school, be it a game, a concert/program, or even a practice, our entire community benefits. Our gas station sees increased sales, our café sees more customers, our grocery store sees more traffic, and our bar (age permitting) sees more patrons. In addition to our local businesses benefiting, our school and school programs do as well through concessions, much of that money goes towards scholarships for our students.

The Hope-Page Elementary School is very important to me and my family on a personal level as well. My wife, Hannah, is the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Page. She is in her 7<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at the elementary school here. She is an great teacher. She is informative, caring, and compassionate with, not only her students, but all students within the entire K-12 Hope-Page school. Our school continuing to stay open and thrive is not only critically important to my family, but dozens of families in our great communities. Teachers, janitors, bus drivers, cooks, and the most important, students, all depend our schools for our rural way of life and well-being.

Thank you for your time.

Kyle, Hannah, Henry, & Leonard Erickson.

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