

Dr. Jake Schmitz, DC, MS  
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- Licensed Chiropractor in ND (and previously NC)
- Owner of Freedom Chiropractic Health Center in Fargo
- Founder and president of the Association of Wellness Chiropractors
- Business co-owner of several entities in ND involving land, minerals, water, and real estate
- Associates degree at Williston State College, BS in Chemistry at Dickinson State University, Doctor of Chiropractic at Northwestern Health Sciences University, Master's degree in Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine at University of Western States, and finishing Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition at University of Western States
- Married with 4 children

Chairman Longmuir, Representatives of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Dr. Jake Schmitz, and I am representing myself as a licensed chiropractor in the state of North Dakota (ND). I have been a practicing chiropractor in Fargo for around 11 years. I support the proposed bill HB 1116.

This bill is simple. It clarifies the statute pertaining to elections, requiring those individuals running for school board positions to file campaign contribution statements, the same way all those who run for public office do. The fact this hasn't been happening already shows the need for this to be written into the Century Code.

One glaring issue with this not being spelled out in Century Code is the use of union/association funds to help certain candidates get elected. Using the Fargo School Board election of 2022 as an example, the Fargo Education Association (FEA) contributed a portion of the dues collected by the teachers to campaign on behalf of a select group of candidates. Not only is this inappropriate, but it wasn't reported. The FEA did a social media push, campaigned to the public, and helped get four of their five selected candidates elected to the Fargo School Board, granting an unfair advantage.

The amount contributed, percentage of dues used to campaign, or where the money was spent has been hidden and kept secret. Open Record Laws do not pertain to private associations since school board elections have somehow slipped under the radar all these years. It is time to bring this all back into the light and allow for full transparency of school board elections!

Please vote a DO PASS for HB 1116. In the interest of public transparency, keeping elections pure, and allowing for equal footing for all candidates who run for public office.

Thank you for your time.

Maximum blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jake Schmitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jake Schmitz