

HB1532

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the committee,

My name is Karen Backman and I would like you to consider voting to approve HB1532. This bill would help parents who believe private schooling is the best choice for their children.

Not only did my own children attend a private school for most of their education I also taught there for thirty years. For the past six years, I am now a substitute teacher in both private and public schools in Bismarck. My heart is happiest when I am in the classroom.

Great education is going on in most classrooms, however, I desired to include the faith component in my children/grandchildren's education.

I also need to point out that the students attending the private school I taught at have changed since I started teaching. We have a "Learning Center" that helps students who have learning disabilities, students who struggle, as well as students who learn in different ways. One out of every 7 students receive some additional help. Our teachers have also been trained for the behavioral changes in today's students.

This bill will give a 30% relief to parents who send their child to a private school. The parents still have to pay 70%. Many parents sacrifice to pay this tuition. I've had parents who supplement by having a daily paper route, or whose children only get to choose one hot lunch per week, but bring cold lunch the other days to save money. Private education is important enough to these parents to sacrifice in other areas.

In my opinion, this isn't a public versus private issue. We should all want the education system that is best for each child. Please consider helping the financial strain these parents have as they decide the best, healthiest, learning environment for their child.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to North Dakota citizens,  
Karen Backman  
District 8