

Hello,

My name is Jeremy Schmaltz. I am a parent that has chosen to send my child to St. Joseph's Catholic Montessori School in Mandan, ND. I am also a licensed educator of 9 years and currently enrolled in a graduate counseling program at the University of Mary.

I support HB 1532 because it is a way to ensure that my child can get his needs met. My wife and I were considering sending him to a head start program and traditional public school until we realized that his needs were not in alignment with the pedagogical methods set forth by the traditional models in our community. We then sought out St. Joseph's Catholic Montessori School and immediately fell in love with the environment, educators, and ways in which the kids learn. They take care of animals, they learn life skills, they are being taught to become independent in a nurturing setting in which they cook their own food, make their own beverages, clean up after themselves, and also have plenty of time to play, learn math, reading, science, and develop the necessary social skills for their ages. I was completely blown away that anything like it existed. As a licensed educator, I can say that THIS model is what we need for grades Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup>. The kids feel safe, they learn, and best of all, my child has fallen in love with school.

I strongly urge you and the committee to vote in favor of HB 1532. It will only help families who need alternative education for their children in order to meet their needs. Best of all, it will not take away from public school funding in any way.

Thank you for your time,

Jeremy Schmaltz