

Jeffrey L. Skaare – District 39

House Bill 1532

March 27, 2023 (8:30 A.M.)

Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Division

In Favor of HB 1532

Chairman Sorvaag, and fellow House Committee Members. My name is Jeffrey Skaare, I live in Dickinson, North Dakota and I am in District 39. I was born, raised, and educated in the great state of North Dakota. I was fortunate to graduate from both North Dakota State University, as well as the University of North Dakota. I am an attorney by education, and a certified professional landman by trade. My North Dakota pride runs deep. I am mostly proud to not only raise my family here, but to instill in my children a love of this great State. We are leaders in Energy and Agriculture. Our State is faced with numerous challenges including workforce challenges. To continue to develop our communities around this State, we need to support House Bill 1532.

First, this bill does not negatively impact public education. The enactment of House Bill 1532 creates opportunities for North Dakota students. School of choice allows parents to the opportunity to decide what is best for their children whether that is a public or a private education. We are fortunate to have both a strong public and private school system in ND. There is no reason to suggest otherwise. The property taxes supporting our school systems will remain in place. When a parent decides to place their child in a private education, they will continue to pay property taxes. That property tax payment will continue to support the public school system and the parent will be required to pay for the private education. This bill allows parents to request assistance to pay for the expenses for a qualified school.

Second, there are good reasons to support a parent's decision regarding their child's education. We can continue to develop our State's much needed workforce by attracting those interested in such opportunities. We are able to discuss bills like this because of our other state resources, namely oil and gas, and the revenue that they generate. To continue to develop our

vast resources, we need to attract a workforce capable of the hard work necessary to develop our resources. This bill provides opportunities for parents but more importantly for all children.

Let's continue to show our support of a North Dakota education in all respects. Let's incentivize families to work and live in our great communities by demonstrating our commitment to the success of every North Dakota student, regardless of whether they attend a public or nonpublic school. It is for these reasons that I support the enactment of House bill number 1532 and request a recommendation of DO PASS. Thank you.