

Members of the North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Jaimie Brunner, and I write to you today as a District #40 mom expressing my support for HB1532.

Both my husband, Randy, and I experienced public and private education during our years growing up in Minot, and I like to think that our parents made their decisions with one goal in mind: raising us both (along with our brothers and sisters) to be good people and responsible, productive citizens in our community.

A common theme heard from many educators today is the importance of recognizing that children are not “one size fits all” when it comes to educational environments. We dedicate resources to creating the spaces and teaching methods that encourage meeting our students where they are in public schools, so it’s hard to understand how a private school setting could not be seen as another viable option for families in offering a different environment and approach to educating children.

For our family, we have chosen private education at a school that goes through the same accreditation process that our state public schools go to. (And our last accreditation scores were among the top in the state.) Our expectation as parents is for our children to learn and grow and become the next generation of citizens shaping and supporting their communities, and we believe that our school is our partner in doing that. I fully recognize that our school might not be the best answer for every family (a statement that would be true for every school), but for my family and many others who have chosen nonpublic education, this is our best fit.

I urge you to support HB1532 to support parents in their right to find the school that is the best environment for raising their children. Thank you for your work in committee on this bill.

Respectfully,  
Jaimie Brunner  
Minot, ND