

Good morning Chairman Sorvaag and committee members.

My Name is Meghan Stegman and I am speaking in favor of HB 1532. I am a parent at St. Michael's Catholic School in Grand Forks.

Both of our kids attend St. Michael's and we are so grateful for the close knit community. The support and communication we have with the admin and staff is invaluable.

One of our children is medically complex and has special needs. Throughout his early years, we received an IEP and lots of meetings regarding school for him though the public schools. Although they have the capacity for more services, we still chose St. Michael's for school because it allowed me to be a part of his safety plan and the plan was flexible as needed with the admin and staff.

He currently is there and thriving. It was no doubt the right choice for our family. Everyone deserves that choice. The staff, admin, and teachers are highly involved in his safety plan, and have all done training to be aware of his needs.

With added costs of private therapies, medications and out of state travel for appointments, the tax reimbursement credit matters to parents and families like me and the complex decision making we make for our children.

Please vote in favor of HB 1532 and supporting parents with special needs children who choose non-public schools.

Thank you.