

**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Support of HB 1494
March 14, 2023**

Chairperson Elkin and members of Senate Education:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1494.

While most schools in North Dakota have good policies that avoid meal shaming practices, some policies allow or even require some adverse practices in their school meals policies.

We support ending any practice that differentiates between students based on the balance of their lunch account. We know these practices result in kids not getting the nutrition they need while at school and are harmful to their physical and mental wellbeing.

At its heart, this bill is about using common sense best practices for treating our students and families with dignity and respect when it comes to feeding our students while they are in our care at school. It's also the right thing to do.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO fully supports House Bill 1494.