

Testimony on House Bill No. 1532

March 12, 2023

Good Afternoon Chairman Elkin and Senate Education Committee Members,

My name is Dan Beauchamp and I am here to support House Bill 1532 that would provide tuition reimbursement options for families that choose to send students to non-public schools.

My wife and I have four children. Three are currently in college and one is currently a sophomore in high school. We made the decision to send our children to non-public school K-12 education. They started in Grand Forks and we now reside in Fargo. We have been very involved in our children's education and their development of mind, body, and spirit.

They all have received a great education that set them up to succeed in post secondary education and eventually becoming taxpaying adults themselves. We have been taxpayers throughout and pay taxes that fund education in public schools while also sacrificing to send our children to non-public school. Taxpaying parents in North Dakota who choose to send their students to non-public schools save the state \$154,000,000 each biennium (data derived from state funding for K-12 education in FY21-23 biennium). Non-public schools complement North Dakota's educational ecosystem. Alumni of North Dakota non-public schools attend the states colleges and universities and contribute to the states workforce and diverse economy. This bill would help families that choose to send their children to a qualifying non-public school for their education. That choice would still come with sacrifice but allow them an education option that may be the very best for them. HB 1532 is a separate funding request and does not take funds from the states appropriation for public K-12 education. HB 1532 reimburses parents for educational expenses (no more than 30% of the states base per pupil rate) and is not unconstitutional. I would recommend support at the 30% of the per student payment rate.

I strongly support and ask the committee to give a pass to HB 1532. If any member of the committee wishes to reach me for additional comments or questions, I would be happy to respond. I respectfully submit this testimony and thank the Committee for your service to North Dakota and your attention to HB 1532.