

Monday, March 13, 2023

Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Christine Goerke. I live in District 18. My husband and I have four children: 6, 4, 2, and 4 months. Our oldest, Joseph, is a kindergartener at St. Michael's School in Grand Forks.

We are thrilled that he is able to attend St. Michael's. The small class size allows him to get the help and support he needs. Parent and family involvement invites us into his school life and reminds him that we're with him. The school is full of tradition and history. In attending St. Michael's, our son is establishing early roots in North Dakota.

I support HB1532 because the option to enroll in a non-public school is, quite honestly, one of the things keeping us in North Dakota. Neighboring states have more options for education: charter schools, large homeschooling co-ops, special interest public school programs, etc. We have already considered moving out of state because of different school options. HB1532 would set North Dakota apart and be another reason for us to stay. My husband owns a small business here in Grand Forks. We appreciate raising our kids in North Dakota. This legislation would help us continue to choose non-public education for our children and also free up additional funds that we could use to grow our small business, make improvements to the home we own in Grand Forks, or invest in our kids through participation in extra sports and activities.

Please vote in favor of HB1532. It is a bill saying yes to young families-- the future of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and attention to this bill, and your service to the residents of this great state.

Very respectfully,
Christine Goerke