

Dear Voting Members,

I am writing this letter in support of HB 1532. My family resides in Williston and I have three sons enrolled in Williston Trinity Christian School. My husband and I choose to send our children to this school because we believe in its mission to instill Biblical value into each of its students. We want our children to know that God is essential in all aspects of life and that he values each human life equally. This small school operates as a family unit where all students are welcomed and accepted not because of rules requiring so, but because that's what Jesus instructs his children to do. In Williston, students are placed in schools where there is room for the students, regardless of the geographical proximity to their homes. The school we chose is located close to our homes and between each of our employers. Our children are treated like family and the values taught resemble that of our home. The staff working at our school have chosen lower paying careers to pour the values of Jesus into our students and for that, we are forever grateful.

Our educational choice has not come without sacrifice. My goal of being at stay at home mom until our children started school, was cut short for our third child so I could return to work to help pay our tuition bills. Our family rarely eats meals out and vacations almost exclusively to neighboring states to visit family. We drive old vehicles and live life on a budget. Our tax dollars go only to public education. The truth is, we value education in all forms. We are not bitter about this fact and wish success to all students in all schools. I myself attended and public school and received a fabulous education, but society is different now. We choose private education because we feel it is worth the sacrifice and the benefits greatly outweigh the challenges to make ends meet. The passing of this bill would help ease the financial stress our family feels. If it passes, we would be in a position to give more freely to community causes and fundraisers for non profits. It would also aide in our ability to save for college tuition for our three children. This bill would not allocate all our tax dollars but a portion. The majority would still go to support local public schools. The cost to educate a single child is astronomical. Children who attend private schools, decrease the burden of this on the public education system. If our school did not exist, the Williston School District 7 would have to accommodate hundreds more students. I believe the public and private schools work together in this manner. Private schools have great value in the community by sharing the load of the of students in the region, and doing so without receiving any financial compensation. I am asking that you please take this into consideration as you vote.

In conclusion, I am asking that you would please prayerfully consider passing this bill and give more North Dakota parents the option of choosing a school that best suits their child and represents their family values.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Fogarty- Williston, ND