

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Keven Wanner, and I live in District 7. I am a parent who has chosen to enroll my child in Light of Christ Schools.

I support HB 1532 because it would give families like mine the freedom to choose a school setting that better suits our religious, moral, and philosophical values. We have chosen to enroll our child in Light of Christ Schools, and have seen great benefit in having our child be a part of this outstanding school system. We have made many financial sacrifices to make this educational choice for our family, and the modest education reimbursement that could be available to families like mine through this bill would be of great help in allowing us to continue to keep our son in Light of Christ Schools. It is not always easy to afford private school tuition and fees, so any sort of reimbursement of these costs would be a significant financial relief for our family.

While both my wife and I were educated in North Dakota's public school system, we feel the better choice for our child lies in the many advantages afforded by Light of Christ Schools, including smaller class sizes, a record of superior academic performance, and a more comprehensive education/formation of the whole person, which can better prepare students to be productive, responsible, and contributing members toward civic life and the Common Good.

While we believe our public school system in ND has a better environment for learning and better outcomes than in many other places in the country, parents and students still deserve alternatives and choices. The great many families in ND that choose private schools for their children deserve to have at least some portion of their tax dollars be committed to the education of their own children, especially since their choice for private school saves on the costs their local public school districts would otherwise incur for educating those same students.

North Dakota ought to be a state which advances policies that empower parents to have decision-making power when it comes to their children's education. HB 1532 minimizes economic and legal obstacles that create an imbalance for tax-paying North Dakotans, like me, who desire an educational environment that specifically aligns with their core values, and in which they believe their children will reach their fullest potential as students and citizens.

For the above reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1532.

I thank you all for your service to the state of North Dakota, and for your time in consideration of this worthy bill.

Sincerely,

Keven Wanner
Bismarck, ND