

Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for serving the great state of North Dakota. My name is Matthew Ellerkamp and I live in District 37, and I have chosen to send my five children to Trinity Catholic Schools for a variety of reasons. I writing to show my support for HB 1532, the financial ramifications for our family would be substantial. Having five children in private education certainly comes with sacrifice and we have been willing to make those sacrifices primarily for not just the educational benefits, but for the spiritual benefit of our children.

It has been proven that children who come from homes where moral values and virtues are practiced and demonstrated, tend to prove to be strong contributing members to society. These children grow up and tend use less government services, abide by the law and raise up others to create a culture to do so a well. A culture that values the human dignity each of us deserve regardless of background or choices. We choose Trinity Catholic Schools because the institution reinforces the morals and values, we teach at home. Trinity Catholic Schools help create a culture of virtue by educating the whole person, mind, body and SOUL.

It is only right, just, and fair that private school families have the same support of that of public institutions. My family currently does not directly benefit from public educations dollars. With that being said, HB 1532 does not take away funding or resources from students attending public schools. In fact, HB 1532 has no impact on funding public schools or continued funding of public schools. HB 1532 is one small step to help balance out the lopsided funding of only public schools. The direct benefit of the financial assistance will allow our family to direct our hard-earned dollars to other areas of need in the family, there bolstering our local and state economy further.

I humbly ask for a "yes" vote to pass HB 1532 as members of the ND Senate Education Committee.

Again, thank you all for your service to the state of North Dakota and for your time on ND HB 1532.

Respectfully,

Matthew Ellerkamp