



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1472

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
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Dear Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of House Bill 1472 and respectfully requests that you render a DO PASS on this bill.

Educational options are in high demand nationwide as parents seek out the best opportunities for their children. Currently in North Dakota our families have at least two and at most three choices for the education of their K-12 children: public school, private school (often not an option at all for families due to their rural locations), and home education. Home education requires a parent to be the primary educator for their children. This is often impossible for families to consider due to potential income loss by the teaching parent.

House Bill 1472 would add another option for parents to consider as it doesn't require the parent to be the educator. Microschools can recreate the highly successful one-room schoolhouse model of years past by serving multiple ages and hiring a qualified educator to teach. They are a natural fit for North Dakota with "micro" group sizes capped at 50 students and wide flexibility for locations where they may meet including a home, church, library, community center, etc.

We strongly support the opportunity for microschoools in North Dakota, because it gives families more options as they consider the best educational fit for their children, their child's most effective learning techniques, and specific circumstances.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you vote House Bill 1472 out of committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action