

To the Members of the Education Committee

My name is Vicky Enger and I am writing this testimony in support of HB 1472. I was raised in a small town and attended the local public school and continued my education at the University of North Dakota earning a Bachelor of Accountancy degree in 2009. My husband and I are both lifelong residents of North Dakota and live in District 24.

Our children's education started out in the public school, and we made the decision to homeschool a few years later. We started homeschooling in the fall of 2020 and it has been great to foster a love for learning. After 3 years of homeschooling, our family grew in relationship with other homeschooling families who share the same desires in raising children who are being educated in an environment that supports their growth in faith. We now participate in a small classical, Christian homeschool co-op that consists of 6 families. All of the moms are involved in the teaching along with a couple others who have a desire to share their love of learning with the students.

Some of the benefits of a microschool would include:

- including families who desire this type of education setting, but who do not have the flexibility to homeschool
- building a student's confidence in public speaking, due to the many opportunities of being able to share with a small group of people
- time and space for meaningful communications to produce growth in character, virtue, and morals
- a learning environment that fosters a love for God and for others by having the freedom to educate alongside others who share common convictions
- having the ability to invite others to participate in teaching by utilizing their skill sets

Thank you for reading this testimony. I believe the passing of HB 1472 would add a valuable educational model for citizens in North Dakota.