

North Dakota House Education Committee Members,

My name is Zach Raknerud from Minot. I am writing today in support of HB 1553 and am urging a **DO PASS** recommendation. For many years, I have heard frustrations regarding North Dakota's lack of use of the Legacy Fund. As the fund's principle has ballooned, yet the bottom lines of families have been strained, it has fostered apathy in the citizenry toward their government. I struggle to think of anything more defining of a legacy than ensuring the next generation of North Dakotans are well-fed and, as such, able to learn best. At the same time, this policy would deliver much-needed financial relief to families across our great state.

Anything we do with the Legacy Fund must understandably be met with caution, but this legislation is well thought out. By tying the Legacy Fund to providing our schools with funding for universal meals, it would simultaneously deliver relief to districts and the families within them. Legislators could tell their constituents about this excellent use and be proud of our state taking care of our kids. Gone would be the days where kids feel shame for having a low or no balance in their meal account. It would be a matter of policy that every child that walks through the doors of our schools be fed the same. We should embrace that ambition and deliver for our families.

Please send this out of committee with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Respectfully,

Zach Raknerud  
Minot, ND