



# NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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January 30, 2023

To the Honorable Pat Heinert and Representatives of House Education Committee:

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries, foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, developing, and advocating for careers in the skilled trades. We support House Bill 1494 that unifies the policy for school districts regarding school lunch debt for students.

Students in our public schools need to have proper nutrition in order to perform at their best to reach their full potential. This is one of the best ways that determines the success for a child's education. Any school district policies that seek to identify, demean, prevent, or collect a debt from a child does harm in this educational journey, and as such needs to be eliminated.

By having a unified policy set forth by the state will address the issue of school lunch debt with the family of the student and not the student, which is not the fault of the child. Therefore, the North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council urges a Do Pass on House Bill 1494 from the House Education Committee.

Sincerely, I am

Jason Ehlert  
President