

I support HB 1532. In my family, I attended a small rural public school (graduating class 21) whereas my husband attended large Bismarck public school (graduating class 400+). Now having children (age 6 and 2.5) of our own we compare experiences, and they are vastly different. I still remember all 21 kid's names, parents, and consider them somewhat of family having gone k-12 with 12 of the 21. Not only that but our teachers knew us and some probably taught our parents. It was more of a family setting with the focus on education. However, in our current situation, having my husband recognize and value the experiences I had in a small school versus a larger one, this is not something we can obtain given the necessity of where we live and work. This is not to say there isn't value in larger schools, as there are, however, as an American we are not only guaranteed an education and required to educate our children in k-12, but we are also afforded a choice – a choice that we should be able to make without having to incur a large additional financial burden. We are by no means wealthy. We both work and are both first generation college (Bachelors and Associates) graduates. We pay taxes that go to public education and do not complain as we agree with the importance of k-12 education, however, we are not benefiting from the taxes we pay. This is, partly, why this bill would be well received as it takes NO funds from public education but also pays an educational entity providing the required k-12 education a portion or monies. Said differently, my taxes are paying for another person's choice to send to public, whereas, this bill, of which the money exists, would only serve a minimal portion of education expenses of which could be construed to cover a portion of an education that is both required and a right to. I believe that having this choice would promote competition and with competition comes the strive for a better education across the board.