

January 31, 2023

Mr. Chairman & members of the Education committee,

My name is Bridgett Bahm. I am in favor of House Bill 1532. I am a single mother and I moved to Bismarck about 2 years ago specifically for my daughter's education.

Hannah is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and attends St. Mary's Academy. Her tuition this fall was \$4,700. That does not include I.T. fees, uniforms, or sports. I make a little over \$46,000.00 a year.

One of the reasons I chose St. Mary's for Hannah is it has the resources available to further her education that a smaller school cannot offer.

I work hard so that she can attend St. Mary's and so does Hannah. She gets to school at 6:45 a.m. and stays until 4:30p.m. The reason for her long school day is because I drive 140 miles, round trip, each day to work.

Hannah loves her school and gets good grades, A's & B's. She is in speech and plans on going out for soccer this spring. Neither of these extra-curricular activities was offered at her last school. I also think St. Mary's is phenomenal. The teachers and staff go way above and beyond to help their students succeed.

Some tuition reimbursement would make a big difference in my life. I would also hope that it would let other families have the another option besides public schools if they so choose.

Thank for your time.

Sincerely,



Bridgett Bahm

2879 Warwick Loop Unit D

Bismarck, ND

701-202-3608