February 1, 2023

Pat Heinert Chair – ND House Education Committee Housing Education Public Hearing February 1, 2023 2:30 pm Coteau AB Room – ND State Capitol

Re: Letter of Support – ND HB 1532

Dear ND House Education Committee Chair Heinert and members,

I would like to express support for ND House Bill 1532. If passed, this Bill will allow greater flexibility for families as they choose an educational setting that is best aligned with their children's educational needs.

Just as the right work environment is critical for an adult's success, so is the right educational setting for our K-12 children. When students thrive, our entire community thrives. The ability for families to select a school without the concern of the full financial burden of tuition is an important step to embracing alternative schooling options. The benefit of HB 1532 is not a detriment to our public schools but an overall investment in the education of our students and the future success of our communities.

North Dakota takes great pride in their public school system and should continue to do so. The design of that system, however, best supports traditional learners. Providing families the opportunity to select an educational setting that meets the individual needs of the child can offer the experience and benefits of smaller class sizes, a diverse range of educational opportunities, and an overall environment where their child will be best supported and able to thrive.

House Bill 1532 can create greater education opportunities and equality through tuition reimbursement. I strongly support HB 1532 to ensure all children in our state can benefit and have access to high-quality education.

Thank you,

**Emily Johnson** 

Bismarck, North Dakota