

Members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Lisa Pulkrabek and I live a few miles outside of Mandan in District 31. I am the mother of six children. My husband and I have sent and currently send out kids to both local private and public schools in Mandan. We see the value of private education and that is why we sacrifice in order to pay the tuition bills. We live a modest life and we are proud of our kids and the work they do to study in whichever school they attend.

I am in support of this bill because I am a landowner and taxpayer. I have paid those taxes since before my kids were in school and I will continue to do so after they have all graduated. My tax bill has not changed due to how many kids I have enrolled in private or public schools. I pay the taxes I own and then I pay for the private schooling as well. Private school parents are just asking for a bit of the money they pay each year back, just for a few years while they send their children to private schools.

I feel that allotting this reimbursement will allow many new families to enroll their children in private schooling. That is a good thing. Private schools rely on many fundraisers, church support and tuition paid by the parents, and they do their best to never turn a student away due to financial hardships. But many people don't know that schools give scholarships, maybe others are too proud to ask for help. Having this reimbursement might just be the nudge families need to be able to afford private education for their children. There are families who feel that private education is just way out of their reach - but their kids really would do better in a smaller setting with a dress code and a moral code being taught and enforced. Shouldn't ND allot some money back to the parents by way of reducing their tuition costs so that they can afford the best school for their child? I think that this is a fair bill.

I kindly urge a Do Pass recommendation. Thanks for your time and dedication to ND!  
Lisa Pulkrabek