

To all the legislators and law makers of North Dakota,

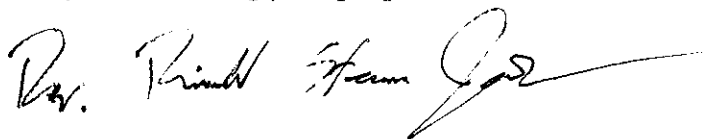
North Dakota has long been an example of legendary options and freedom for citizens to control their own lives and futures. As home to nearly every industry, trade, and commerce opportunity North Dakota provides individuals unparalleled access to putting their resources, time, and talents into whatever course they feel most beneficial to themselves and those they are responsible for. After living in several other states, prior to 2012, North Dakota is a welcome change to other environments where choices over one's destiny are stifled by over regulation and corporate or government control. North Dakota in almost every respect is an encouraging and unburdened place to live.

There is however, one significant area of life where our fine state can improve with regard to personal responsibility and freedom. That area is education. Education is a vital part of life and society. It is particularly central to a person's responsibility and duty to their family and children. Currently, any choice to bring education more into the hands of parents and families comes at extreme cost and sacrifice. For a family to take control of their children's education with a philosophy, ideology, or program that is truly in tune with their values and desires by utilizing the private school system the financial tole is significant. Not only are they losing their tax dollars dedicated to education, they also pay tuition on top of it.

The current arrangement is a hinderance and burden to a family's ability to provide the nurturing and education that is right and appropriate for their needs. As such, I am writing in support of bill HB1532. This bill reimburses families for some of those taxes put towards education. This compensation helps restore some autonomy to families as they provide the best education for their children. As the father of three children in a private school, I cannot tell you how impactful this bill would be. Lessening the financial sacrifice would ease an incredible burden we currently face to ensure our children are not only receiving an education, but are afforded the opportunities to be in an educational environment that helps them thrive in every aspect of their lives.

Please help North Dakota families take control of their educational needs. Allow us to make the best choices for our own children's development and futures. Pass HB1532 and keep North Dakota a state of legendary freedom and opportunity.

Thank you for hearing your people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Richard Steven Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Richard Steven Jones
Chaplain and Vice President—Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
Husband, Father, Minot Resident