

## **1. Resolution in Support of Education Freedom – NDGOP Resolutions Committee**

WHEREAS: An increasing number of American parents are seeking alternatives to traditional public schools and many are inhibited by financial constraints; and

WHEREAS: Public funding for education comes from the pockets of taxpayers and is meant for educating students, not for maintaining the *status-quo* education system, and

WHEREAS: Using taxpayer dollars exclusively for public education discriminates against citizens who reject the secularism in public school and instead want to instill the values ascribed by private schools or homeschool curricula, and

WHEREAS: Universal school choice allows taxpayer funds to follow students to the schools that best fit their educational needs whether that is a public school, private school, home school, or any other learning environment that families choose; and

WHEREAS: Funding for government schools continues to increase regardless of the academic performance of students; and

WHEREAS: While less than half of American students are proficient in math, science, and reading, government schools are prioritizing social programs that politically and ideologically indoctrinate students; and

WHEREAS: North Dakota is filled with dedicated educators and hardworking students who have no choice but to stay in an antiquated, one-size-fits-all system that continues to fall short of rigorous academic standards; and

WHEREAS: Implementing universal school choice improves academic proficiency for both program participants and public school students while saving the state money; and

WHEREAS: Parents should have the ability to choose, regardless of income or zip code, an education setting for their child based on their child's individual needs, academic goals, and religious beliefs; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Dakota Republican Party recognizes the necessity of educational reform that empowers all families to choose their education providers—whether that is public, private, charter, or homeschool—that best meet their education needs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Dakota Republican Party urges legislators to pass a bill that provides for universal school choice that contains strong protections from government regulation for private, charter, and home schools.