

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1540.

This bill threatens the integrity of our public education system by using taxpayer dollars for private schools, which are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or accessibility standards as our public schools.

No matter what this bill is called—education savings accounts, scholarship programs, or otherwise—if it diverts public dollars to private schools, it is a voucher. North Dakotans have consistently opposed voucher programs, and I strongly urge you to do the same.

Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status. Our public schools are the foundation of our communities, and instead of diverting resources away from them, we should be investing in smaller class sizes, support staff, mental health resources, and competitive wages for educators.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on this voucher bill and to stand with North Dakota's students, families, and educators in preserving a strong public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to our state and look forward to your support in keeping public dollars in public schools.