

January 31, 2025

North Dakota House Education Committee  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Endorsement of HB 1540

Dear House Education Committee:

My name is Amanda Dukart. I live in the Mandan school district, and I am a parent who has chosen to enroll my children in Christ the King Catholic Montessori School.

I support House Bill 1540, but I am in support of all school choice bills that support parent autonomy and the right to provide an education for my child. I support House Bill 1540, which would establish state-funded educational savings accounts for K-12 students' educational needs, because three of our children currently attend a private school, so this would majorly affect our family directly.

The first reason we support this bill is because we would experience first-hand the benefits of our tax dollars toward education. The second reason is because we currently make many financial sacrifices so that our children can attend a private school. We find that the sacrifice is worth the benefits, but if the bill were passed, we would also be able to save more money to help pay for our children's higher education in later years. The third reason we support HB 1540 is because we are paying tax dollars toward education, but we also reserve the right to choose a private institution that provides a religious and Montessori education.

We have seen the benefits of this approach to education in the lives of our children, forming in them independence and a love of their faith. They love their school and the freedom it provides for them to choose how they learn. I also attended the same institution as a child, so the school feels like home to us. We are grateful for a school that teaches the same exact values as what we teach our children in our home, and we get a say and are very involved in that process.

Please vote in favor of HB 1540. There are numerous great families and schools that will benefit from assistance with private education, and a financial burden will be lifted in each of their households. Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and for your time on HB 1540.

Sincerely,

Amanda Dukart  
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Mandan, ND 58554