

February 3rd, 2025

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Samantha Harrison, a current resident of Mandan and former public school teacher. I am writing to you to urge a “Do Not Pass” recommendation and a “No” vote on HB 1540.

This testimony will, exhaustingly, mirror testimony I am submitting for five other bills that have been introduced this session. No matter what they are called, education savings accounts, scholarships, or tax credits—if they take money from public schools and funnel it to private institutions, they are vouchers, and I and other public educators current, former, and future vehemently oppose them.

The purpose of the public school system is to serve every child, regardless of income, ability, or background. Private and religious schools are not held to the same standards, and as a taxpayer in North Dakota, I oppose my tax dollars being used to support private education in any way. The State should be investing in the public school system, rather than be complicit in funnelling money away from it.

I urge a “Do Not Pass” recommendation from the committee and a “No” vote on the floor on HB 1540.

Sincerely,

Samantha K. Harrison  
District 34