

Hello House/Senate Education Committee,

My name is Alexis Scott. I live in District 6 and I am a parent who has chosen to enroll my child(ren) in John Paul II Catholic School(s).

I support HB 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 HB 1540 because as a parent of high school age to kindergarten I no longer felt after COVID my children's educational needs were met. A few examples on why I chose to remove my children from public school:

1. **Lack of Academic Progress Transparency** – For years, I struggled to get meaningful academic updates from my children's public school teachers. My 4th grader fell behind in math without any notification, and when I inquired, teachers couldn't specify his struggles or offer additional support. Requests for extra homework were dismissed, leaving me helpless in guiding his progress. After switching to Catholic schools, I experienced a complete shift—weekly grade updates, prompt responses to questions, and immediate academic support. I finally felt engaged in my child's education again rather than shut out of the process.
2. **Effective Reading Support** – My child struggled with reading throughout 1st grade, receiving school-provided reading support with little improvement—managing only 7 WPM at 50% accuracy by year's end. Upon transferring to JP2, he received consistent, individualized 1:1 instruction. By the end of the year, he was reading 86 WPM with over 95% accuracy. The tailored support not only accelerated his progress but also built his confidence and love for learning in a way I hadn't seen before.
3. **Middle School Environment & Academic Expectations** – My oldest child's public middle school experience was chaotic—regular fights, constant classroom disruptions, and an overall apathy toward learning. At Discovery Middle School, there were no classroom controls, no cell phone policies, and no clear academic expectations. Despite being labeled “nice” and “easy to work with,” he struggled to write a basic paragraph. In contrast, his first day at JP2 was “the best first day of school ever.” The school fostered respect, discipline, and high academic standards in a safe, structured environment. By year's end, he proudly handed me a three-page essay, amazed at his own progress. The transformation in confidence, learning, and overall well-being has completely changed our family's experience with education.

I support school choice because it allows my family to thrive in an education system that is supportive, engaging, and exceeding our expectations. It would ease our financial burden and make quality education accessible without sacrificing our financial stability. We have taken extra jobs, cut expenses, and relied on scholarships to provide this opportunity—something families shouldn't have to do to ensure a strong education. Every child deserves access to a school that meets their needs, and our tax dollars should support families in making that choice.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1540.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and your time on HB 1540.

Regards,

Alexis Scott