

Hello House Education Committee,

My name is Kara Trom. I live in District 25 and I am a parent who has chosen to enroll my children at St. John's Catholic School in Wahpeton, ND. 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 children. I support HB 1540 because I believe that all families should have a say in the environment in which their children receive education.

St. John's Catholic School provides an excellent education curriculum and learning environment but with a Christ-centered focus, which differs from public-school systems, and something we value as a family. The ability for our children to attend private school is a great expense to our family, and we have had to make many sacrifices to continue to send them there. The opportunity to receive assistance with tuition from our tax dollars will greatly benefit our family and many others like ours. We pay taxes to educate our children, however the public school is not educating them. The opportunity to attend private school should not only be for the wealthy, but it should be for all students in North Dakota. Every child should have the opportunity to attend a school that fits their needs and beliefs.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1540 to allow parents greater flexibility when choosing which school, they send their children to and ease the financial burden that goes with private schools.

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

Kara Trom

Wahpeton, ND