

February 4, 2025

Dear Member of the House Education Committee,

I am a resident of Grand Forks and a parent of two children currently enrolled in Grand Forks Public Schools. I am writing to you today to ask that you give HB1540 a DO NOT PASS recommendation in your committee and vote against this bill.

HB1540 would divert millions of public dollars into private schools. Public dollars are limited and public dollars should not go towards paying for the private school costs of privileged families. Private schools are not held to the same standards and accountability as public schools. Public schools are required to serve all children in our state. Private schools are not required to serve all children and may exclude students for any number of reasons.

If there are millions of public dollars available, they should go to support our public school system, teachers, and students - not a select group of students, families, and education providers who have the extra resources to afford private education. The vast majority of families in our state cannot afford private school tuition and/or do not have access to private school options (especially those in rural communities across the state). As a result, these sorts of schemes will simply exacerbate education inequalities rather than provide a public good that benefits all families of school age children.

In short, this bill is not a good use of public funds. I ask that you give HB1540 a DO NOT PASS recommendation out of committee.

Sincerely,

Liz Legerski
Grand Forks, ND