

I am writing to urge the North Dakota legislature to oppose HB 1540 and SB 2400. Both bills divert funds away from our public schools. I firmly believe our tax dollars should be used to support those schools that serve all students. When my children were no longer attending school, I never imagined that I would stop paying to support my schools. Everyone in our communities benefit from educating our kids. They all deserve a chance to learn and this bill just makes it harder for schools.

As a parent, I had choices and parents today, still have those same choices, if they don't like the public schools their kids attend. I could pay for a private school (as long as the private school accepted them). I could homeschool. I could volunteer at the school, to help make things better. I could move to another school district. I could enroll my kids in programs and extra activities after school, to teach them about things they wouldn't learn at a public school, but were important to me.

These bills overwhelmingly benefit the people that can already afford to pay to send their kids to a private school. Public schools need to benefit all students.

Please vote no on HB 1540 and SB 2400.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debbie Kauffman