

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 1144.

Many restrooms in our local elementary schools have shared sinks. These restrooms are in both schools that were built in the past few years as well as restrooms from schools built in the 1950s. Shared sinks are efficient ways to reduce the number of sinks for custodians to clean as well as use common plumbing. Shared sinks do not mean that students are sharing restrooms. Asking the local schools to spend thousands of dollars to remodel their restrooms is not a good use of our taxpayer money. Our local schools are already struggling with funding at the moment, and asking them to spend money to remodel sinks that work perfectly well is not a good use of taxpayer resources.

In addition, private cubicles for restrooms are truly an asset for all students. Many of the restrooms at our high school no longer have door on the stalls. I know of no one that appreciate using the restroom in public.

One of the wonderful strengths of our North Dakota schools is local control. Our legislature has trusted the schools to make decisions that they know are best for the students in their districts. This bill goes against this long-standing principle because it requires everyone to conform to one notion of school building design and assume that every district needs the same thing.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hintz