

Antoine Poitras

1106 Central Ave N

Beulah ND, 58523

Antoine.poitras@gmail.com

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Dear Members of the North Dakota House of Representatives,

My name is Antoine Poitras and I am both a teacher and a parent in North Dakota. I am testifying today in strong opposition to HB1540 because I believe this bill would be deeply harmful to our children, our schools, and our communities—particularly in its potential to undermine funding for our public education system.

As a teacher, I know firsthand the challenges our schools already face. Public education in North Dakota operates under tight budgets, and any policy that further threatens funding puts students at an even greater disadvantage. HB1540 could have serious financial consequences by diverting resources away from public schools, whether through legal challenges, compliance costs, or shifts in funding toward alternatives that do not serve all students equitably. Public schools are the foundation of our communities and weakening them through policies that divert public school funding to other places does not serve our students' best interests.

As a parent, I want my children to have access to a strong, well-funded public education system that provides them with the tools they need to succeed. HB1540 risks destabilizing that foundation by fostering an environment of uncertainty and fear—where educators are forced to second-guess their curriculum, and schools may lose critical funding due to politically driven restrictions. When schools are underfunded, it is our students who suffer the most, particularly in rural areas where resources are already scarce.

Rather than passing restrictive legislation that threatens the financial health of our schools, we should be working together to invest in education, support teachers, and ensure that all North Dakota students receive the high-quality education they deserve. I urge you to reject HB1540 and instead focus on policies that strengthen, rather than weaken, our public school system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Antoine Poitras