

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Nick Emmel and I live in District 32. My wife (Lauren) and I are both teachers and we currently have five students enrolled in private education at Light of Christ Catholic Schools. The decision to enroll our children in private education is a serious financial commitment. Lauren and I believe in this commitment to our children's education and we believe that their private school education forms young people not only for the common good of North Dakota, but also for the education of our children toward eternity in Heaven. This is a unique type of education that is not found at every school. The sad reality is that there are currently many families we come in contact with who desire this same kind of education for their children, however they are unable to afford private schools due to the rising costs of education.

I believe that HB 1540 will provide parents support, voice, and choice in finding the most appropriate education for their children and I think this autonomy will bear great fruit for the future of North Dakota.

I support HB 1540, and I am in support of all school choice bills that include parent autonomy, the right to provide a faith-filled education for my children, and alleviate some of the financial burdens on parents who desire this unique education for their children.

I also support HB 1540 because I am a teacher and parent who understands that support of private schools (by supporting families who enroll students in private schools), is a great benefit for North Dakota private school education at large. As you know, the majority of private schools are non-profit organizations that often struggle to keep their doors open. Over the past 75 years, we have seen many private schools come and go in North Dakota, particularly in the rural areas of our state. I think this is a great tragedy in our state's history, and I believe that school choice bills like this one will preserve the educational landscape of North Dakota amid rising costs and modern changes in education.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1540. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Nick Emmel
Parent
Teacher
St. Mary's Central High School