

Dear Senate Education Committee:

I strongly urge you to support HB 1540. My family has chosen to send our children to a private school based on the educational product, parental ability to influence and be involved and because of the faith-based teaching of the school. My husband and I have been committed to sending our children to a Catholic school, and while we have made significant life changes, as well as done significant financial planning to make this happen, I cannot express how much it would mean to us to have some financial support in this endeavor. The school that our children attend goes above and beyond in meeting the educational goals of the State, with our school being above average in test scores compared to local public schools. I love the education that my children are receiving, and HB 1540 would make the awesome education my kids are receiving possible for more people that would choose this if they could. Each child is different and there isn't one school environment that fits all kids. HB 1540 allows parents to more easily be able to objectively assess what is best for their kids. Our private school provides valuable service to its families and the state of North Dakota, it is only right that some support be provided to parents who choose non-public education for their children. Our non-public school families currently save the State over \$80,000,000 per year because they pay for their children's education out of pocket, while public school parents (without being means tested) pay nothing for their children's education except taxes, which are paid by the parents of non-public school parents as well. This is fundamentally unjust. I would ask that you support this movement towards empowering parents to make the best decision for their family, even when that means foregoing public education.

Thank you for your work on the Education Committee and your public service!

Katelyn Denne