

To Senate Education Committee Members:

I urge you NOT to pass HB1540—

I became an educator because I believe in education for all, not education for the elite. North Dakota's public schools are strong; I've always been proud to share with relatives living in other areas of the United States that we don't need to send our kids to private schools to get a good education because we have great public schools. However, if we continue diverting public dollars into private schools while providing minimal increases to our public school systems, we will be destroying our ability to have these great public school systems. This bill could cost an estimated \$40 million, and yet we have only designated a 2%/2% per student increase toward K-12 public education?

I have over 20 years experience as an educator in this state, and yet last year my take-home salary actually DECREASED due to high health insurance costs and too few dollars coming from the state to support public school systems. I believe I am a strong teacher-- I take my job VERY seriously and am constantly striving to improve student learning. I have a bulletin board where I keep all of the emails and texts I have received from former students, thanking me for preparing them for college/work. However, if I were to do everything all over, I would not choose to become an educator. The lack of funding, lack of respect, and lack of proper support in general is beginning to make public education a dismal career choice, which makes me sad about our future.

Please start moving our public education system in the right direction again. Instead of sending public dollars to private schools—a move that most North Dakotans do not support—let's redirect that money that would be appropriated to this bill and invest appropriately in our public school systems by diverting these dollars to public education, which will benefit ALL communities in our state.

I strongly urge you to issue a DO NOT PASS on HB 1540 and instead show that you care about our public education system, about our hard-working teachers, and-- most importantly-- ALL children in North Dakota.

Tanya Neumiller

High School English Teacher