

As a rural town public school teacher, please do not pass House Bill 1540. Please choose to support North Dakota's students, families and educators in preserving our current strong public education system. Private schools should not receive the same funding as public schools. Students who attend these schools attend by choice. Not law. What private schools teach is also not determined by the law. Private schools are not held to the same transparency standard as our public schools and therefore, they should not be receiving government funding. Public dollars should remain in public schools where they serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status. Our public schools are the foundation of our communities, and instead of diverting resources away from them, we should be investing in smaller class sizes, support staff, mental health resources and competitive wages for educators. If funds are reallocated, North Dakota's public school systems will begin to crumble.