

I am writing in opposition to HB1540 or any other bill that will take money away from public education in the state of North Dakota. I am a parent of students in the Fargo Public School system. My oldest son is a proud graduate of the public school system in ND. He excelled and is now at Vanderbilt University studying Biochemistry. My other son is a Junior at South High in Fargo and hopefully moving on to a prestigious college with a successful public education.

Taking funds from our public schools would be detrimental to the success of all students and it is our state's responsibility to use public funds for public schools. That means the state of ND must support all students regardless of ability, or financial status. Private schools can discriminate for any reason and will leave deserving children in the cold. Anyone with disabilities, such as ADHD or physical impediments, will be overlooked. If our schools lose money, the success rate of our students will drop drastically. The voucher amounts are not enough for middle class families to "choose" private and will leave them to suffer in an underfunded public system.

We are a proud public school family and proof that success can be found with the support of the state for public education.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wilkinson