

To the ND Legislature:

I write in strong opposition to HB 1540, which would provide taxpayer dollars for private school tuition.

- The majority of communities in our great state do not even have a private school option, so the rural folks would help subsidize an option realistically only available to city dwellers.
- We need to direct as many resources as possible to our public schools; our teachers are underpaid and many are discouraged.
- Honor the constitution by keeping church and state separate. Do NOT allow public dollars to fund religious organizations.
- And don't we all envision those religious, private schools as reflecting Christian values? And yet I presume a private school founded upon a violent ideology could also qualify. How would the citizens of ND feel about that?

We are a proud state of hard-working, values-driven people. And one of those values is respecting the separation of church and state. We enrolled our own child in a religious private school years ago---and would **never** have expected public dollars to help fund that choice of ours. Please do NOT use our tax dollars in *any way* for private tuition.

Mona Rindy
Rural Portland, ND