

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Alena Hall, and I am a senior at Our Redeemer's Christian School. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1540. My family lives in Newburg, ND, which is about an hour away from our school.

Back when it was first time for me to start school, my mom and dad made the decision to send me and my two siblings to a Christian school. They knew that there would be lots of sacrifices involved, but they felt strongly that it would be completely worth it. This has involved financial sacrifices, as my dad is a modest farmer. We likely wouldn't be able to afford a Christian education if my mom hadn't gotten a job teaching at Our Redeemer's. Also, in order to make the commute shorter on weekdays, we decided to purchase a second house in Minot, and return to the farm on weekends. My mom and dad knew it would be hard and that there would be nights that we wouldn't get to be together as a family, but they also felt that the decision they made to send us to Our Redeemer's would be one that they would never regret.

Now as a senior, I can say that the sacrifices have been absolutely worth it. Through my time at Our Redeemer's, I've grown in my faith so much, and I've also gotten a rigorous education. On top of this, I've also grown as a person through my Christian education. I've had the privilege of having strong, encouraging, and knowledgeable teachers as role models who have helped instill in me a Biblical worldview. I've gotten to be in God's Word every day, and I've grown in my relationship with Him exponentially at Our Redeemer's. I will always appreciate the sacrifices my parents made to send me to a Christian school, and it is my hope and prayer that through HB 1540 more students will have the same opportunities as me.

I believe that there are many more families like mine who want to give their kids a chance to have a Christian education but lack the means to do this. Bills like this help encourage

families to choose the educational option that works the best for them and reflects their values. The freedom of religion is a core value in our great nation, and allowing students to choose schools that allows them to grow in their faith is something that fits with the values our country was established on. Giving students the choice of where to go to school can help increase the productivity of our society and foster personal growth in students that aligns with their beliefs. Choosing a Christian education is something that involves sacrifice, but HB 1540 would help make this sacrifice easier for many. I humbly ask you, the members of the Education Committee, to give this bill a “do pass” recommendation to help make education better for us all. Thank you all so much for your time and your service to our state.

Respectfully,

Alena Hall