

Dear Legislature

I cannot think of a worse time in our history to be taking public dollars and diverting them to private schools. And at the same time propose giving a 2% increase in funding to our schools. You are not giving enough money to support the public schools needs to reduce class sizes, retain good teachers in North Dakota, and fight the teacher shortages. Our overall education level is going down in North Dakota and we are fighting that by allowing more and more unqualified personnel to work in positions because we are short teachers. Teachers are asked to deal with so much more with mental health issues, trauma issues, large class sizes, and the countless extra meetings. And then they are told, there will be no money for raises this year. Public schools do not have wealthy alumni donating money to help them meet their needs, and yet they are held to much higher standards and accountability than the private schools

The large majority of North Dakotans do not approve of diverting money from their public schools and giving it to the private schools, so I am interested in knowing why this bill is being pushed through. I have been teaching for 38 years in North Dakota, and I have never been so disappointed in the level of disrespect and lack of support as I do now. I strongly urge you to come to the aid of the North Dakota public educators that are fighting all odds daily to give our young people the best chance to succeed in their future. Please issue a DO NOT PASS on HB 1540. We need your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Kvislen

Math Department Chair

Kindred Public School