

16 March 2025

To Chair Heinert and the Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jenni Momsen, and I am a parent of two children in the Fargo Public School system, and a professor at NDSU.

I urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1540.

These bills go by many names - education savings accounts, scholarship programs - all seek to divert public dollars to private schools. They are school vouchers. Public schools serve all students, regardless of financial need, ability, or background. Private schools do not - for that reason alone, we should not allow public, taxpayer money to be diverted to private schools.

Further, this bill - and others like it - will benefit a small minority of students. Most communities in North Dakota do not have private school options. These bills will effectively drain money from these communities and their public schools. Our taxpayer dollars should be used for the public good - and that means investing in our public schools, not taking money away.

Again, I urge a "Do Not Pass" recommendation from the committee and a "No" vote on the floor on HB 1540.

Sincerely,
Jenni Momsen