

John M. Pederson  
235 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW  
Mayville, ND 58257

March 16, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I write in opposition to HB 1540 which will give taxpayer dollars to fund private schools. This violates the principle of separation of church and state enshrined in the First Amendment to our Constitution. It will also encourage an exodus from public schools, giving them less resources to provide for the students who may be left behind. If people wish to go to a private school, that is certainly their right. However, the public taxpayer should not bear any of that expense.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John M. Pederson