

HB 1540

Please DO NOT PASS this bill and take away PUBLIC dollars to private schools, when ND is already facing cuts at the federal level. This will IMPACT our schools already serving children with disabilities, homelessness, and food insecurities. This bill WILL have grave consequences for ND families.

Most North Dakotans live in rural communities and do not have opportunities to attend private schools. This bill is mostly for the elite, OR families living in major cities. It isn't the Class B families, living in rural communities that have consolidated schools to keep the doors open. Some of these school districts have a 2000 sq mile radius. The people this bill benefits may live blocks from a private school. This will be a nail in the coffin to consolidated school districts that support children living in districts containing multiple communities.

I graduated from McVille Public School in 1985. My son, walked across the same stage that I did, except his school was Dakota Prairie School District #1 which consisted of Petersburg, Michigan, Mapes, Whitman, Niagra, Dahlen, Aneta, Kloten, McVille, Pekin, Tolna, and covering Nelson, Walsh, Grand Forks, Steele, Eddy, Benson, and Ramsey Counties.

If you vote to give vouchers to private schools, many of these consolidated districts will be forced to re-consolidate. Children are already on buses for well over an hour in the morning and evening.

Please take the time to look for other options rather than taking money from public school districts where funding is already limited.