

Nick Amb
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Testimony re: HB1540

Members of the committee:

My name is Nick Amb. I am an elementary school principal at North Border-Walhalla. While I will always advocate for my students, teachers, families-my views are my own.

I urge a resounding NO vote on HB 1540.

40 million a year in giveaways to private education?

Your constituents in rural ND would likely beg to differ. Do you know what the unmet needs are here in rural ND?

We are 107 miles away from Grand Forks. There are no reasonably close “private” options for kids up here. This legislation takes these dollars that should be kept sustaining public schools.

I strongly oppose any sort of voucher, credit, or scheme to divert public money to private schools.

Also, most private schools are sectarian. NO public money shall be expended toward sectarian activities.

Instead of 40 million a year to give to the private schools (who face no accountability, and can reject any incoming student they see fit)—please consider the appropriation of funding for remote, rural schools.

We have very unique needs based on geography, and the state is obligated to provide our kids an education as well.

Our district is over 500 square miles. We have already consolidated to the extent possible.

A far better use for these resources would be to keep public dollars supporting public education.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,
Nick Amb
Lifelong educator
Proud public school elementary
principal