

HB 1540

To whom it may concern:

I am currently a teacher at Four Winds School in Fort Totten, ND. This is my 20 year teaching there. I am writing to ask you to OPPOSE HB 1550.

Our school is on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation and provides essential services, education and opportunities for our students. Our children and families there are plagued by a multitude of challenges such as poverty, drug use, gang violence and child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Many of our students demonstrate resilience, academic gains and leadership when given support from teachers and staff – making it even more important to invest in our public schools.

These students are near and dear to my heart, and I do not want much-needed resources to be diverted to private schools – schools that they do not even have access to. There is no choice for our students who live in such a rural area.

The students in my district and ALL of North Dakota, deserve public education system that provides opportunity for every student. Please prioritize investments that improve our public schools rather than initiatives that divert crucial resources away from them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Megan Estenson