

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition of HB1540 which would provide \$4000 to any student who attends private school, costing our state \$40 million dollars next year alone.

No matter what these bills are called—education savings accounts, scholarship programs, or otherwise—if they divert public dollars to private schools, they are vouchers.

I have been a Spanish teacher at Century High School in Bismarck for the past 27 years. Diverting money from public schools to private schools would be devastating to our schools. One of my colleagues will not be getting an extended duty contract to split one of her classes which will be extremely large year. This is due to a lack of funding that public schools are already experiencing. Students will be negatively affected by being in this larger class and not having individual time with the teacher which becomes increasingly difficult in large classes.

Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status. Vouchers take critical funding away from our public school system. Vouchers only benefit those in metro areas across our state as most rural communities do not have non-public schools. Public school systems are already struggling, we should be investing any additional available money into our public schools.

Please oppose this bill as it would be a horrible blow to our public schools. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andee Adams-Woodmansee