

As faculty at a public university, daughter and niece of public school teachers, mother of a son in public school, and proud product of public schools, I implore you to oppose HB 1540.

HB 1540 threatens the integrity of our public education system by using taxpayer dollars for private schools, which are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or accessibility standards as our public schools. There are so many students who aren't served by private schools--in particular students with special needs. School vouchers are not democratic; rather than providing "choice" for all students, they benefit those who are already sending their child(ren) to private school.

Let's strengthen North Dakota's public schools rather than using taxpayer dollars to support private schools.

Please vote no on HB 1540.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thyra E. Knapp  
Grand Forks, North Dakota