

Dear House Committee,

My name is Amy Lee, and I am writing in support of HB 1540. I am a mom to three children that attend Bishop Ryan Catholic School, with a fourth that will begin next year in preschool. I also am a middle school teacher at the school my kids attend. With my roles, I see firsthand what a parochial school provides for my children and my students. The job of any educational institution is to prepare its students for the outside world upon graduation. Bishop Ryan surely does this academically, but it provides so much more. With a faith-based education, the school also guides morally its students to lead virtuous lives. The virtues instilled in my children and students will take them farther than any A or B they receive in a class, or any honor they receive at graduation. Hopefully they will become productive, upstanding, righteous people in their families, workplace, and community. I love when my 3rd grader visited a nursing home monthly to give its residents companionship. I love when I see my students working with individuals that have mental disabilities providing them guidance and support or performing service projects around the city of Minot. I love when I get to teach my students the virtues that will give them the character they need to succeed in life. This bill would help our financial situation to ensure my children continue to receive the faith-based education that I want them to receive. It would also help more families experience the joy and pride of attending a parochial school, and the amazing opportunities their children can receive by having another option if they choose. Please consider voting yes to HB 1540.