

I am writing in opposition of HB 1540.

I am a prek teacher in the Grand Forks area. I help prepare numerous children for school. I have been teaching in this field and in this community for 10 years. In that time the vast majority of families sent their children to our public schools. As our public schools serve most of the children in our community they deserve to go to schools that are properly funded so that they can get a good education and be best prepared for the world. Parents who make the choice to go to private school then accept the financial responsibility that comes with that choice.

As a teacher I don't want to see my students start off behind because of a choice to pass this bill. As a tax payer I want my "public" taxes to go to "public" schools. Private businesses, including schools, have opted out of public tax money. The same way parents who opted to chose private school chose to opt out of schools that are funded by public taxes.

This bill is nothing more than a financial break for families who have the privilege to chose their child's school. All families in North Dakota deserve well funded schools. Children with low income families and special needs will suffer the most if this bill passes. As adults in our state we have a responsibility to aid our children, all of our children, in any way that we can.

Thank you.

Tasha Bonn

Grand Forks