

I urge you to vote **NO** on HB 1540. Our public education system is the foundation of our communities, ensuring that every child—regardless of background or financial status—has access to a quality education. With 93% of North Dakota students, and 95% of students with needs in our excellent public systems, we should not allow funds, of any sort, to be tailored to private schools and or students.

Sending taxpayer dollars to private institutions weakens this foundation by pulling much-needed resources away from public schools, where majority of your constituents are educated. This bill threatens to deepen inequities, leaving rural and underfunded schools with fewer resources while subsidizing private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, not just a select few. Our focus should be on strengthening public education—improving teacher salaries, expanding resources, and supporting student success—rather than funneling public money into private institutions that operate without the same level of transparency and oversight. For our students, our communities, and the future of public education, I respectfully ask you to stand with public schools and your constituents and vote NO on HB 1540.

Sincerely,

Casey Mills

2024 County Teacher of the Year (Bottineau)

2024 MDU's STEM Educator of the Year