

To Whom It May Concern:

As a North Dakota voter, I am asking you to VOTE NO on HB 1540 and any other future proposals to remove tax dollars from public education and channel those dollars to private education. Our educated populace is what sets the United States apart from many other countries. Brilliant artists, writers, engineers, business people, architects, engineers, and technology specialists come from the ranks of middle and lower class families, and a robust public school system.

I have no issue with parents paying to place their children in private schools, but that is a separate matter from fulfilling their taxpayer responsibilities to all children in their community. I am childless but have paid into my local school district for over 30 years with zero complaints because I am a responsible, civic-minded individual and I understand that America's greatest resource is our children. All of our children. Not just the children of wealthy or elitist families that want to return to the days of segregated education – and demand do it with public tax money, while bright, creative children of families with less money make do with less.

And what makes this even more disappointing is that many of the people greediest for public tax dollars to pay their children's private school tuition are people who themselves benefited from public education when they were young.