

## HB 1540

I'm asking the Senate Education Committee to give HB 1540 a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

I'm a retired teacher who taught for 31 years in the Fargo Public Schools and am a lifetime North Dakota resident, and I feel that it's imperative that we keep public dollars in public schools.

Public education should not be privatized. Privatization (vouchers) puts children at risk, especially those children who are low income or have special needs. Private schools can choose which students they accept, and neurodivergent students and low income students won't be at the top of the list. In the meantime, since public taxes will be funneled away from public schools, the services there will take a hit. It's a lose/lose for students. Privatization will also leave rural schools at risk of closure or consolidation, and it will make the teacher shortage even worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

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