

Dear House Education Committee,

Today I write to you on behalf of my wife and I and our support of HB 1540. Our children attend Bishop Ryan Catholic school in Minot. We currently have four children and a fifth on the way. Our oldest two children are enrolled with our third attending part time next fall. Though financial sacrifices have to be made, we believe that the price for a Christ-centered education is worth the sacrifice. Tuition costs can feel overwhelming at times. This is the right decision for our children and our family and this choice should not be such a financial strain. The decision to send our children to Bishop Ryan was not difficult to make. Bishop Ryan offers our children the chance to grow both in their faith and excel in their academic education. I feel that there may be a stigma that if you attend a private school, your family is financially sound, so assistance is unnecessary. This is certainly a misunderstanding. Many families are willing to do whatever it takes to give their children a quality education that is centered around God, despite their financial situation. God being at the forefront of our children's daily lives is something that we feel is of the utmost importance. The grasp that our children have on their faith at such a young age reassures that we have made the right decision. We highly encourage you to support HB 1540. The passing of this bill would help tremendously with the affordability of private education for many North Dakota families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kyler and Dailey Elm