

Honorable Committee Members

As a mother to two children in public school and as current special education teacher I strongly oppose HB 1540. I don't want my tax dollars or public funding to go to private entities that do not have tell us how they used the money while taking away from already needed funds from our public schools.

Currently, public school education has been granted only a 2% increase in funding from the state. With the possibility of losing a significant portion of federal funding also. More students attend public school than private. Please do not take away the funding that is so desperately needed.

Public schools provide equitable quality education for all. Private schools often can choose who comes in and out of their education system. Taking away money from public schools will put a strain on the already strained system and harm our North Dakota public school students, my children included.

As our legislature has voted no on Universal School Lunches due to inefficiency of cost, I believe that HB 1540 is also inefficient and does not benefit most.

I urge you to vote against House Bill 1540. As our voice, please lift up public policies that support and invest in and improve our public schools. Our students, their families, and their communities and North Dakota deserve a strong and well-funded public education system that benefits all, not just a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Van Winkle