

Dear Legislators,

I am asking you to vote no on HB 1540.

In North Dakota, 93% of students attend public schools. Only 30% of students even have access to private schools, so shouldn't taxpayer money go to our public schools?

The problem with vouchers, savings plans, privately run magnet schools or anything else you try to call it, is a basic fundamental part of our country.

No taxation without representation!

Private schools are businesses with ZERO requirements to answer to the public about where money goes. If the school wants to pay their teachers less than a living wage and spend 2 million dollars to buy marble statues for the foyer, they can do that. If they want to give all the money to the superintendent to finance vacations or other luxuries, who can stop them? NO ONE! If the school decides kids named Tom are not allowed to enroll, that is their rule, they can take who they want.

Sometimes it seems like the average person has no power to impact the schools, but contacting your representatives and exercising your right to vote and supporting a free and ethical press are the power! The school boards of the schools are elected to work for the people. They take the calls, they read your emails, they are on the board because they want education to be good! The open record laws require meetings to be open to the public, access to see what was spent by who and for what has to be provided when the district is asked. Journalists are able to question and expose any irregularities. All these things keep the schools going in a positive direction by being a system of checks and balances.

Public money should not be put into private schools. No taxation without representation!

Vote no on 1540!

Thank you,
Brenda Cain
Fargo, ND