

March 17, 2025

Dear Senate Education Committee

I am strongly encouraging you to oppose HB 1540. No matter the bill number nor what they're affectionately called - education savings accounts, scholarships for tuition, or school choice opportunities - they have the same effect. They use public funds to subsidize private schools.

- North Dakotans have consistently opposed voucher programs. No matter what these bills are called - education savings accounts, scholarships for tuition, or school choice opportunities - they have the same effect. They use public funds to subsidize private schools.
- Our state's responsibility is to use public funds for public schools, schools that must serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status.
- Voucher funding comes from the same pot of money used to fund public schools, diverting critical resources that could and should be dedicated to meeting the needs of students in public schools.
- Voucher programs are not accountable to taxpayers nor fiscally responsible, creating massive, unsustainable price tags in states that have enacted them.
- Private school vouchers overwhelmingly benefit our state's largest cities, leaving rural communities without the same options while footing the bill for others.

I am a parent of two students that attend a rural school, and this would be detrimental to the school and the community we live in. Please vote in opposition to HB 1540.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Mothershead".

Barbara Mothershead