

My name is DeAnn Scheeler. I live in District 37 and I am a parent who has chosen to enroll my children in a nonpublic school. I also work in a nonpublic school, and attended one for my personal K-12 education.

I support HB1540 but I am in support of all school choice bills that support parent autonomy and the right to provide an education for my children.

My grandparents worked hard to provide for not only their children, but for the next generation. They were part of a group that helped establish the Catholic school system in Dickinson. In turn, my parents chose to send me and all four of my siblings through that same system, and now my husband and I, both of whom are graduates of a non-public school have chosen to send our children there.

Our experience in a non-public school has been wonderful for our family. The sacrifice that we make to afford this education is one that is thoughtful and deliberate, as we find tremendous benefit in our children being able to practice their faith in a school setting. Our faith is part of our identity, and having to silence that in a public school is something that would change the way we raise our children.

We have chosen to make sacrifices to be able to afford this educational opportunity for our family, knowing that nonpublic schools, especially in Dickinson, have helped to alleviate the crowding of our public school system. School choice is something that not only helps our family, but helps our community. As our President recently signed an Executive Order in favor of school choice, it would be prudent of North Dakota to take strong action to support families in their right to choose the education path that fits their family best.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of HB 1540, advancing school choice in the state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your service to the State of North Dakota and your time on HB 1540!