

VOTE NO on 1540

I had the wonderful opportunity to see Beauty and The Beast Jr. performed at Bismarck middle school March 9<sup>th</sup>. It was fanstatic. The costumes, the music, and the audience. My children and I were enthralled. Public dollars made that experience possible. After the performance, I spoke with Bismarck Public students' parents. I was blown away by the resources available at the school. I was in awe of the facilities. The parents told me about the catalog of curriculum available to BPS students. The kids on IEPs have options, the kids that are gifted have options, and even the kids in-between have options. Arts, sciences, robotics etc. They seem to have it all. I am happy for them.

I left Bismarck to come back to Jamestown and all I could think was that no one really thinks of Jamestown Public Schools in the legislature in Bismarck. And passing 1540 will only increase the inequity and exacerbate the lack of resources and options our Jamestown Public school students have.

Private schools can raise money from their wealthy benefactors. They can limit who attends and who doesn't. In fact, my daughter was denied attending St. John's Academy. And I am so glad they did. The teachers at Jamestown Public School have been the best mentors for 9 years. They make do. They make sure their students, even the difficult ones learn, because they don't have a choice, like St. John's Academy.

Do not give taxpayer money to schools that can deny admittance. Do not create loopholes that give taxpayer money to private schools that can deny admittance.