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March 17, 2025

North Dakota Legislature  
600 East Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear North Dakota Legislature:

Vote NO on HB 1540. Providing a taxpayer with a subsidy for private school tuition will have a negative impact on our public schools throughout the state. Public dollars are meant to stay in the public schools which are required to serve all students, regardless of ability, background or financial status. Many of our public schools are already struggling to cover expenses as costs have continued to increase. It is our state's responsibility to keep public dollars public

This bill does not provide for accountability to the taxpayers for their dollars nor fiscal responsibility. There is nothing preventing a private school from increasing their tuition that amount of the voucher. Thus, doing nothing to benefit the taxpayers and ultimately only taking away from our public education, especially in our smaller rural communities which serve the majority of our state's children.

My family does not have access to a private school simply due to geography. As is the case with over 90% of our state's students. My tax dollars are meant to support my community's students and their education. Not to subsidize a student's tuition in Dickinson, Bismarck, Minot or Fargo. This bill will only benefit our state's largest cities while causing harm overwhelmingly to our rural communities and schools.

Vote NO on HB1540 and keep public dollars public!

Sincerely,

*April Dutchuk*

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