

3/17/25

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to vote NO on HB 1540 this afternoon. It is disheartening as a public school teacher to see this come up year after year. It is absolutely not acceptable to divert public funds to private or alternative educational settings. It will widen inequities for schools that serve low-income students and students with disabilities.

HB 1540 will give funding to private schools that don't have the same accountability standards as public schools. There is no way to make sure public funds are being used properly.

HB 1540 undermines the idea of public school education. You are going to take more funding away from public schools that are already underfunded. In my mind, this then gives public money to private schools, but they are not held to the same guidelines as public schools. "Here is money that you can do anything you want with." If you are giving fund to private schools, they are no longer private. Public funding makes you a public school.

It was very disheartening to hear adults in the legislature stating that "public schools are lacking." I feel very confident that I, and my district, are teaching what my students need to know to succeed in the future. If you are saying "public schools are lacking," that is YOUR fault for not properly funding for schools that take ALL students with all needs and behaviors. Public schools can't kick out children they can't handle in their buildings like private schools do.

Please do NOT pass this bill. It is a slap in the face to the public school system that you don't want to fund or have respect for. If you feel that way, which I do not, fund the public school systems to care and teach ALL children. Stop being elitists.

Thank you for your time,

Anita Frey