

Chairman Beard and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Liz Tofteland and I am from Westhope, ND. I strongly urge a **Do Not Pass on HB 1540**.

North Dakota has a strong tradition and history of supporting its public school system. Supporting our public schools in North Dakota is a wise investment in supporting our most valuable resource - our children.

I am a product of a small, rural public school education. My children were the third generation to graduate from Westhope Public School. My oldest son is now heavily invested in our community as he begins his farming career. Having access to a public school in the community he has so heavily invested in will be pivotal to his long term success as a farmer. We do not have to travel too far from our town to see the effects of losing a school on the people and services provided in a town. To support the success of our next generation farmers, we need to only invest our taxpayer money into our public schools.

Taxpayer money needs to stay in our public schools. Taxpayer money should not subsidize private school tuition.

Sincerely,

Liz Tofteland
Westhope, ND