

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Stacy Benz, Public School Parent & Public School Superintendent

Re: Opposition to HB 1540

I am writing to you as a parent of a public-school student, tax paying citizen, and public-school Superintendent. **I urge you to oppose HB 1540.**

Any bill that supports public funds going to private schools is wrong. Private schools can pick and choose who they serve while public schools serve all students regardless of income, ability, and background. Students that live in rural areas do not even have the choice of going to a private school as they are only available in larger ND cities. Even though rural students do not have a choice, they are still losing out on public school funding due to education savings accounts.

It is the state's responsibility to use public funds for public schools. If taxpayer dollars are going to private school use in the form of ESA's, per-student funding is down considerably in public schools. This will equate to cuts in teaching staff, extracurriculars, and advanced courses.

Vote NO on HB 1540.