

Oppose Voucher Bills Protect Public Education  
Senate Public Education Hearing

Dear Senators:

I am writing to urge you to oppose the six bills that would use public dollars to fund private schools. (HB 1540, HB 1590, HB 1607, SB 2295, SB 2303, SB 2400)

These bills threaten the integrity of our public education system by using taxpayer dollars for private schools, which are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or accessibility standards as our public schools.

No matter what these bills are called education savings accounts, scholarship programs, or otherwise if they divert public dollars to private schools, they are vouchers. North Dakotans have consistently opposed voucher programs, and we strongly urge you to do the same.

Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or financial status. Our public schools are the foundation of our communities, and instead of diverting resources away from them, we should be investing in smaller class sizes, support staff, mental health resources, and competitive wages for educators.

John attended McKinley Elementary, Ben Franklin and Oak Grove back in the '70s and Our two sons attended Longfellow Elementary and Oak Grove Lutheran School more recently. One of our sons also took Welding classes from North High School as an OG student. We believe that the families should be willing to pay to send their kids to private schools, most private schools have plenty of scholarships. We feel a dedication to the local schools and keeping public schools strong. We dont know that we would encourage another generation of our family to go Private.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on these voucher bills and to stand with North Dakotas students, families, and educators in preserving a strong public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to our state and look forward to your support in keeping public dollars in public schools.

Sincerely,

John and Wanda Peterson

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