

House Education Public Hearing
Feb 1st at 2:30pm
HB 1532 - Testimony in Opposition

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I am here in opposition to House Bills 1532. The \$24 million proposed for an educational reimbursement from the General Fund could instead be used to pay for free school lunches for kids in our public schools or pay our school teachers competitive wages.

I am a homeowner paying property taxes to fund my local public schools, and, if I have an issue with the school system, I can bring it to the public school board. These proposed reimbursement dollars would go to parents to help fund private schools that are not accountable to taxpayers and community members in this same way.

I grew up going to private schools, because my parents chose to put me there when I could have been educated in public school for free. They paid for my schooling, and if other parents now are choosing private education, they can also choose to pay for it themselves.

My child is a first grader at a public elementary school in Fargo, getting a great education. Let's use these dollars to make sure students across the state are receiving high quality public education.

I urge the committee to give HB 1532 a Do Not Pass recommendation. Thank you for letting me share my testimony.