

**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Opposition to HB 1532
Feb. 1, 2023**

Chairperson Heinert and members of House Education:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO In Opposition to House Bill 1532.

School vouchers programs divert funds from public schools and into private schools, leading to a two-tiered system of education.

Additionally, voucher programs lack accountability and transparency, making it difficult for taxpayers to monitor how their money is being spent.

Instead of voucher programs, we should be investing in our public schools to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education. This includes providing adequate funding, supporting teachers, and implementing evidence-based policies that have been proven to improve educational outcomes for our students. We have some great opportunities in front of us to improve education and we should focus on those priorities most impacting our working families.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO urges a “Do Not Pass” recommendation on House Bill 1532