

Testimony on HB 1532

February 1, 2023

Chairman Elkin and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1532 both as a person of faith and a product of North Dakota public education. I am grateful for the education I received in public schools and support efforts to increase resources and support for our public school systems, not efforts that will removed critical funding. I support a parent's right to choose where they send their children to school, I believe we must keep public dollars in public schools so that teachers and students receive the resources they need.

In my current job, I work largely with folks in rural communities in the eastern part of our state and care deeply for our rural communities. Rural North Dakotans have no proximity to private schools and will only see a reduction in resources across the public education system. In other states, voucher programs have led to consolidation of rural schools. Many of our rural areas already have consolidated school systems and we can't afford to reduce resources for these schools. Rural schools are a hub of activity and employment and losing rural schools is a loss for our state.

I urge you to vote do not pass on this bill because of the ways this bill will harm our rural areas and reduce resources for our public schools.

Erin Power  
Fargo, ND