

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Chairperson Heinert and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1532. School vouchers such as the ones proposed in this bill are used to privatize education and send taxpayers' dollars to non-public schools. As a product of public schooling and a former public school art teacher in my home state of Texas, I believe that it is the responsibility of the government to bolster and support public education rather than destabilize it, which is what a bill like this would do. Private schools are not required to have the same amount of accountability or fiscal transparency of public schools—they are not required to admit all students, particularly students with special needs, and they are not required to disclose how these proposed state dollars would be spent. Parental choice should always be one of the most important factors in where a child goes to school but supporting this bill will take away choices and opportunities from public school teachers and students, particularly in rural areas where constituents do not have access to private schools and would only see a reduction in resources. Please keep our public dollars in public schools. I urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1532.

Sincerely,

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