

Testimony on HB 1532

February 1st, 2023

Dear Chairman Heinert and committee members,

My name is Sarah Grossbauer, I am a constituent of District 17, in Grand Forks. I am writing in opposition to HB 1532. I grew up in Grand Forks and attended parochial school from kindergarten to halfway through my 11th-grade year. In the second semester of my Junior year of high school, I transferred to a North Dakota public school, Thompson Public School, where I graduated in 2019. Since then, I have graduated with two bachelor's degrees and began my career in North Dakota.

Living in Grand Forks, there are minimal options for private education, only going up to the 5th grade. After fifth grade, Grand Forks parents can send their children to public school or across the river to Sacred Heart in East Grand Forks. Parents who choose to send their children to parochial school often want them to attend all the way through their education. Thus, the funding under HB 1532 will be going to the only option for private schooling above the 5th grade, a school in Minnesota.

Not only do I believe in the value of having public dollars go to public education. I also have firsthand experience of the lack of accountability, inaccurate curriculum, and oppression that is spewed through parochial schools in the Grand Forks area. While parents should have the right to choose where their children go to school, just as mine did, they should also face the fiscal responsibility of that choice. Public schooling in North Dakota, especially in the Grand Forks area, offers many more opportunities for education and growth than the private schools are able to provide.

I transferred to a public school because of the unchecked privilege that is evident in parochial schools. There is no accountability in private schooling and because of this students, like myself, suffer from extreme bullying amongst countless other faults that occur in private schools. There is no reason why my tax dollars should go to these unequipped schools.

Attending a public school in North Dakota was arguably one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I had much better class offerings, excelled in extracurriculars, such as Future Business Leaders of America, gained college credit from a state university, and received much better treatment as a student. None of these things were possible at my previous private school.

I strongly urge the Committee to give HB 1532 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation. My tax dollars should fund public education in North Dakota, not private or parochial schools.

Respectfully,
Sarah Grossbauer