

March 27, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

Hello my name is Nicholas Schmaltz and I am writing in support of HB 1532. I am a member of the Little Flower School Advisory Board and also a member of the Rugby Public School Board. I would like to share with you my thoughts as to why I urge support of HB 1532.

Our family has sent all of our children to Little Flower School in Rugby through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and then they have attended Rugby Public School for the rest of their education. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity in our community. The 2 schools work very well together.

I have heard that passage of HB 1532 would be taking money away from Public Schools. I don't believe that there is language in the current Public per pupil formula or anywhere in this Bill that requires a deduction of dollars from the public per pupil student payment to be transferred to the Private School student payment! The dollars proposed for this Bill in no way come or will come from the current public per pupil formula! No current program funding, as I understand, is going to be cut/reduced to fund this Bill.

An area of concern is Accountability of Public Funds. I agree that all public funds provided should be shown how they are used. I know this would not be an issue with Little Flower School. Little Flower School currently receives Title One funding, administered by the RPS District, and can only spend it on items that are covered by Title One. There is documentation for Title One and there is no reason why documentation can't be provided for HB 1532 funds.

Another area of concern is the ability of Private Schools to turn away students for various circumstances. If the state would be willing to fund Private School students at the same level as Public School students, then by all means a strong argument would be that both settings should be required to abide by the same requirements. Until then, it's up to each Private School to do the best that they can with the funds that they are able to generate.

I support our public education through our real estate taxes and by contributing to the various fundraising events. I also support our local Private School through the various fundraising and tuition payments while our children attended school there and continue to do so.

HB 1532 would recognize the importance and value of the students that attend the Private Schools. I strongly urge you to pass HB 1532.

Thank-you for your time on this bill and your public service to our great state!

Nicholas Schmaltz

