

Re: Bill Number 1532

March 10, 2023

Honorable Robert Erbele

Dear District 28 Senator,

I am writing this on my own behalf as a parent, a tax payer, and a teacher. The use of public money for school vouchers will erode funding toward public school education. HB1532 will negatively affect rural PUBLIC schools for the following reasons:

1. Public dollars should be spent in public schools.
2. It is inappropriate to give public funds to private schools without any accountability measures.
3. Nothing in this bill prohibits private schools from increasing tuition rates while also receiving state funds.
4. Unlike public schools, private schools are allowed to turn away students they deem too difficult to serve, including students with disabilities.
5. Voucher programs do not equally benefit all North Dakotans. Only students in large cities with private schools will benefit. Rural students will not benefit from the vouchers and rural taxpayers will be subsidizing students and families in other communities.

I hope you agree that these reasons can significantly impact the education of rural North Dakota students, and impact schools in District 28.

Sincerely,

Colette Middlestead
Ellendale Public School

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Ellendale School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, or handicap in its educational program, activities, and employment practices.