

March 12, 2023

Senator Robert Erbele
6512 51st Avenue SE
Lehr, ND 58460-9149

Dear Senator Erbele,

We are writing today to inform you of our strong opposition to HB 1532. First and foremost, we believe that public dollars should be spent in public schools. The fact that this bill calls for up to \$24 million from the state treasury's general fund for an educational reimbursement program that benefits private schools is both alarming and concerning.

Simply put, it is inappropriate to give public funds to private schools without any accountability measures. Additionally, nothing in the bill prohibits private schools from increasing tuition rates while at the same time receiving state funds from the program.

While we support the right of parents to choose a school and educational experience for their children, we do not believe public dollars should support schools that are not required to meet the same requirements as public schools.

As a senator from a largely rural district, you understand that this educational reimbursement or voucher program does not equally benefit all taxpayers and students. While students in larger communities with private schools would benefit, the vast majority of students across the state would not.

We ask that you support the rural schools, students, and taxpayers in your district and across the state by voicing your opposition and voting against HB 1532.

Sincerely,

Milnor Public School Board of Education

Milnor Public School Board of Education
Scott Berndt, Angie Bogart, Chad Fyre, Kate Mund, and Kari Wehlander