

Committee Hearing
March 14, 2023
HB 1532 - Testimony in Opposition

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is LeeAnn Miller, and I am here in opposition to House Bills 1532. The \$24 million proposed for an educational reimbursement from the General Fund could instead be used to pay for free school lunches for kids in our public schools or pay our school staff competitive wages, just to name a few.

I am a homeowner happily paying property taxes to fund my local public schools, and, if I have an issue with the school system, I can bring it to the public school board. These proposed reimbursement dollars would go to parents to help fund private schools that are not accountable to taxpayers and community members in this same way.

I am a product of the public school system and currently a teacher in the public school system. We work very hard to make sure that ALL students in North Dakota have the opportunity to live and grow to their full potential. This bill would completely undermine all of that work. To some, public school has a bad reputation, but together, we can change that. Let's stop the 'school-to-prison pipeline' and support the teachers and students of our state.

My own children will soon be a product of public education. Let's use these dollars to make sure ALL students across the state are receiving high quality public education.

I urge the committee to give HB 1532 a Do Not Pass recommendation.