

Hello,

I am writing this letter in opposition to HB 1532. As a public educator I have several concerns about the bill.

First off, I am concerned that state education money will further be spread out putting stress on public schools, school boards, and superintendents that are already struggling to fill teaching openings. I have personal experience in this regard. My wife has family in North Carolina. In North Carolina, the state gives funding to all types of schools. Funding from the state goes to charter schools, private schools, homeschool students, and public schools. At the end of the day public schools are left depleted with inadequate funding, where as private schools and charter schools at least have the means to raise money to supplement the state funding they receive. We do not want to be like other states! In North Dakota you must understand that what we have is truly unique compared to the rest of the nation. We only have one entity to fund which is public education. Please do not choose to spread out the funding to private schools.

Secondly, this bill would not benefit rural schools in North Dakota that do not have a private school in their district. The vast majority of school districts would be hurt by this bill.

Third, schools are already having a hard time filling teacher openings. I do not understand how taking more state funding away from schools would be helpful for the state? Especially since the vast majority of districts in North Dakota do not contain a private school.

I hope you consider these points in opposition to HB 1532. I am very concerned that taking money away from public schools to give to private schools in the state would make it even more difficult for public schools to match salaries of other private industries further depleting our teaching ranks.

Cale Peterson