

Committee Members,

In regards to House Bill 1532 I must emphatically express the harm that this legislation would cause to rural North Dakota.

I am a resident and tax payer of rural North Dakota, I am an employee of a rural North Dakota school district, I am a parent to children that will attend rural North Dakota public school when they are of proper age. To pass House Bill 1532 would be providing families in communities that already have a plethora of opportunities more 'choice' and taking away much needed funding from rural North Dakota students that do not have the same access to similar opportunities.

The nearest private school is over 50 miles from my front door and the average tuition cost is well beyond my salary (that I make as an employee of public education) can afford, private education is not an option for my family as well as thousands of other rural North Dakota families.

I would also be remiss not to mention the lack of legislation in providing funding to rural public school districts like the one I live in and the one I work for. In passing House Bill 1532 you would be sending the message that rural North Dakota's students are not as worthy as urban North Dakota's students- especially considering the past legislation that would have greatly benefited rural North Dakota schools failed.

This Bill is not about 'choice' for the vast majority of North Dakota. It giving more privilege to the already privileged.

Please vote NO on House Bill 1532.

Mercedes Wulf