

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1532. I am the great granddaughter, granddaughter, and daughter of public-school educators. I am a retired educator and school counselor. My children are both public school teachers in North Dakota. Public education is my passion, so much so that I ran to be on my local school board. Public education is a one of North Dakota's most valuable institutions.

Vouchers will take money and funnel it away from public schools that already are struggling with funding. It may be especially harmful to our rural school districts. Schools are presently struggling with teacher shortages. This will further exuberate this critical issue. Funds need to be dedicated to improving teacher salaries. Vouchers also will have negative affects on funds necessary to support our students with special needs. Finally, there is no credible data that vouchers improve student performance.

North Dakota has a long tradition of string public schools that educate ALL students regardless of their limitation or abilities. I strongly urge opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Gayle Nelson