

**Do Pass Testimony  
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota  
on HB1532  
in the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1532 is great legislation. It fulfills the State of North Dakota's constitutional duty to educate children.

Private education is efficient and accountable education and should be entrusted with legislative funding, which will not detract from public school funding. The dollars spent on private education already saves vast amounts of public money by not having this education burden on the less efficient public school systems.

There have been arguments that the public school system is the only acceptor of special needs students, and this adds cost and skews performance standards. However, this argument does not adequately explain why in the Fargo Public School District only 45% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are proficient and advanced at math, while 55% are not proficient. Accountability is a concern, but not for private schools.

[FPS Data \(k12.nd.us\)](https://k12.nd.us)

Accountability is actually a good argument FOR the funding in HB1532. I am aware of millions of dollars of Covid ESSER funds going into the public-school programs (such as DEI) unrelated to education and certainly not very well applied to the needed math education. These expensive non-educational programs in the public school setting have little accountability and unconstitutionally drive a wedge between a family's parents and their children with respect to the family's religious beliefs.

There have also been arguments that students already have a choice between private and public schools. This is not completely true. Some families do not have that choice as their family does not have the funding available for that choice.

HB1532 has all the right reasons to be supported and meets our state's constitutional requirements. Please give HB1532 a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you,

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