

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

TO: North Dakota Legislative Body 2023

FROM: Tammy Gilstad, New Salem, ND

RE: HB 1532 – Education Vouchers

As a retired teacher who spent 28 years in the classrooms of public schools, I oppose HB 1532. I currently serve as a local school board member.

My major reasons for opposing public dollars spent as vouchers in private schools include the following:

1. Private schools do not have the accountability measures required of public schools; therefore, public dollars should not support schools that do not have to meet all of the same requirements as public schools.
2. Private schools have the option to not accept students, including those with disabilities. A private school can deem any student difficult to serve for whatever reasons or lack of,
3. Voucher programs do not equally benefit all students in North Dakota. Only students whose families reside in large cities with private schools benefit from vouchers. Rural taxpayers will be subsidizing students and families in larger communities.

As a former educator, present school board member, and taxpayer, I urge all legislators to vote NO regarding school vouchers in North Dakota.

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