

**Senate Education Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1532
March 14, 2023**

Dear Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1532. As Superintendent of Wahpeton Public School District, I oppose HB 1532 for the following reasons:

- Public dollars should be spent in public schools. The \$24 million proposed in HB 1532 could be used to fund school lunches for low-income kids, increase transportation funding, or increase teacher pay in public schools.
- Public schools are held accountable to taxpayers and parents by locally elected school boards, open record laws, and open meeting laws. Private schools will receive this funding without any reporting or accountability measures.
- Public schools are obligated to provide a free and appropriate education to every student and proudly do so. Private schools are not required to educate all students.
- I support a parent's right to choose an educational experience for their child. If this bill does not pass, no one loses school choice.

Therefore, I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 1532. Thank you for time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Kaiser, Superintendent
Wahpeton Public School District