

3/13/2023  
North Dakota Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I write in opposition to House Bill 1532. As a school board member of a rural public school, I understand the importance of the resources provided to us to ensure the educational needs of all students are met and also be accountable to our taxpayers. Vouchers do not provide actual choice for students living in rural areas who have few, if any, access points to schools other than their local public schools.

HB 1532 fails to provide accountability measures and proper oversight to the taxpayers to ensure the private schools meet even a minimal of standards. Also, private schools do not provide the same rights and protections to students as tax-dollar receiving public schools do.

Additionally, this bill would allow private schools to accept state money while also allowing the schools the right to reject students with vouchers for a variety of reasons like disability or ability to pay. This system is school choice, and not parent choice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz Tofteland  
Westhope, ND