



1 **Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1590**

2 Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is [Your Name], and I would like to
4 express my appreciation for the creativity and innovation behind House Bill 1590. Expanding
5 educational opportunities for students is a commendable goal, and I appreciate the intent of this
6 legislation to provide financial support for a broad range of educational services. However,
7 despite the strengths of this proposal, I cannot support ****state-funded reimbursements for**
8 **nonpublic school tuition**. I wonder if the bill sponsor would consider the removal of that option
9 for reimbursement and continue with the concept keeping the question of constitutionality in
10 place?

11 **Public Funds Should Remain Dedicated to Public Education**

12 North Dakota has a long-standing constitutional commitment to funding **a strong and equitable**
13 **public education system** that serves every child. While educational choice is a valued principle,
14 it must not come at the expense of **our public schools**, which educate the vast majority of North
15 Dakota’s students and serve as the foundation of our communities.

16 By **subsidizing nonpublic school tuition**, this bill would divert public funds toward private
17 education—without the same transparency, accountability, and accessibility required of public
18 institutions. This is concerning, as private schools are not bound by the same obligations
19 regarding curriculum, student rights, or nondiscrimination policies as public schools.

20 **Unintended Fiscal and Equity Consequences**

21 The proposed program, which includes a **50% state match for deposits into student education**
22 **services accounts**, would ultimately shift taxpayer dollars away from public schools and toward
23 **private and alternative education options** that lack public oversight. This raises serious
24 questions about **equity and fairness** in the distribution of state education funding.

25 **Prioritizing Public Education Infrastructure**

26 Rather than diverting funds to nonpublic tuition reimbursement, we should focus on **enhancing**
27 **public education infrastructure** to ensure that all students—regardless of their financial
28 background or geographic location—have access to quality learning opportunities. This includes:

- 29 • Strengthening **career and technical education (CTE) programs** within public schools.
- 30 • Expanding **dual-credit and vocational courses** that benefit all students.
- 31 • Providing **mental health support and special education services** within public
32 institutions.
- 33 • Supporting **public school innovation** in technology, curriculum development, and
34 workforce preparation.



1 **Conclusion**

2 I commend the sponsors of this bill for their effort to **expand educational access** and provide
3 families with additional learning opportunities. However, I strongly urge the committee to **reject**
4 the provision allowing for **reimbursement of nonpublic school tuition**. Public funds should
5 remain dedicated to **strengthening our public schools, supporting our teachers, and ensuring**
6 **that every child—regardless of their ZIP code—has access to a high-quality education.**

7 Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions the committee may have.

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