**From:** Frank Schill
**To:** Randazzo, Addison - HTechClerk3 - HEDU - HNAT
**Subject:** HB1590
**Date:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 8:00:22 AM

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Testimony House Bill 1590
February 5, 2025 – 10:00 AM
House Education Committee
By Dr. Frank Schill Superintendent of Edmore Public School

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Frank Schill, and I serve as the Superintendent of the Edmore Public School District. In addition to this role, I am a board member of the NDASA Legislative Focus Group and the North Dakota Small Organized Schools Organization. I am here today to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 1590, which proposes the implementation of student education services account for K-12 students in North Dakota. This bill would allocate funds to families with children attending public schools, private schools, and home education students.

This bill stands in clear violation of the North Dakota State Constitution:
• Article VIII, Section 5 states, “No money raised for the support of public schools shall be appropriated or used for the support of any sectarian school.”
• Article X, Section 18 states, “Neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof shall make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund ... in aid of any sectarian school, or for any other sectarian purpose ...”

It is important to note that only 7,500 students in North Dakota attend private schools or are homeschooled, compared to the 115,000 students who are enrolled in our public schools. Redirecting public funds to such a small minority undermines the robust public education system that serves the vast majority of our children.

If HB1590 becomes law, I am confident that it will prompt a constitutional challenge brought forth by the taxpayers of North Dakota. I am equally confident that such a measure would be overwhelmingly rejected by our citizens. Therefore, I urge you to save both time and resources by voting “DO NOT PASS” on HB1590.

North Dakota boasts an excellent public education system, deeply rooted in the principle of “Local Control.” Parents seeking changes within their schools should engage in the democratic process at the local level by attending school board meetings. If they feel their voices are not being heard, they have the power to rally their communities and elect school board members who better represent their concerns.

I  would urge you to support HB1475 which would guarantee food in each student’s stomach every day. The fiscal note for HB1475 is similar to the fiscal note for HB1590 and would benefit all students immediately and would alleviate financial pressures for all families with students that are school-age.

For the integrity of our public education system and the democratic processes that support

it, I strongly urge you to vote “DO NOT PASS” on HB1590.

If you have any questions, I am available at 701-520-9674.

Thank you for your dedication and service to our great state.

Frank Schill
“It’s Never Too Late To Be What You Might Have Been”
George Eliot