

As an opponent to the bill reported in the Grand Forks Herald says, "Under the voucher system, the state would give public money to individuals who wanted to send their kids to private institutions."

My response is how did the state get the public money? From tax payers which include parents that send (or wish to send) their kids to private schools.

The public includes people of faith and they also pay for public education so the funds should go where the people paying the taxes want their kids to be educated. Why should a parent not be able to send their child to a school that reflects their values using money from their taxes rather than to public schools that have become increasingly anti-parent? It's not like the money is diverted forever; they will still be paying for public education through taxes far after their children are through school, but the choice should be the parents choice. Being able to provide a financial break to tax-paying parents that value a faith based education is good for students and good for North Dakota.

If the public school is underperforming, then they should look to the private schools for advice since they manage to draw students and educate them for less (E.g. St.Michaels of Grand Forks is about \$9k while public is \$11k-\$13k).

If the public schools that are supposedly underfunded cannot compete with private schools that require less money, perhaps a little competition is warranted and some external auditing.

Thank you very much.

Please vote yes on HOUSE BILL NO. 1532

Janel Johnson