

North Dakota's rural communities, served by public schools, will receive absolutely no benefit from this bill as there are no private or parochial nonpublic schools located in 36 of North Dakota's 53 counties.

HB 1532 requires no accountability for these expenditures on the part of the private schools who will receive them. In contrast, public schools, governed by locally elected school boards and open meetings laws, must account for every dime they receive from the taxpayers of North Dakota.

Nonpublic schools that will benefit from HB 1532 are not required to follow many federal and state requirements and the bill specifically prohibits requiring nonpublic schools to alter their admissions policy. They are free to deny admission to any student for any reason, including cognitive ability, physical disability, as well as behavioral and social limitations. Public schools, on the other hand, proudly educate all comers, regardless of their limitations and abilities. It is not unreasonable to believe that if private, nonpublic schools receive state funding, then they should have to follow the same state and federal requirements as North Dakota's public schools.

Finally, North Dakota parents that choose to send their children to private schools already have the financial ability to do so. Spending public money to reimburse the wealthy for sending their children to private school is a mismanagement of ND taxpayer money. Public schools and public school teachers like me need the financial support to educate every child that comes through our front door. Private schools that are operated for the "select few" with the financial ability to pay for a private education do not.