

I am writing in opposition of this bill. My reasoning for opposition includes:

- 1) As a parent from a rural school district, we do not have the option to send our children to a private school due to distance. I want my tax dollars to go in support of the children in my own community.
- 2) Private schools were developed so that they could have various freedoms (academic, religious, et.). When parents choose to put their children in private school, they are choosing to forfeit their child's right to a "Free Appropriate Public Education." In my opinion, public funding should not go towards a school that doesn't need to follow guidelines set in place by the NDDPI or follow IDEA laws.
- 3) Our rural districts suffer to find appropriate funding for various programs as it is. How can our small districts afford to lose more funding?
- 4) I work for a special education unit who provides minimal special education and related services in a private school. I see firsthand the injustice private schools do for students in special education. They don't hire the appropriate staff or provide the needed services for children with disabilities to be successful in school. If the school can't provide the appropriate services, they typically either deny their entrance into the school or the parents have to be "OK" with their child not getting what they need and just falling further behind. Why should this injustice be "rewarded" by providing them funding for things they aren't even doing?