

Scranton Public School District No. 33

"Home of the Night Hawks"

"Empowering Individuals to Succeed in a Changing World"

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Board of Education

Kelly Pierce
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Haley Evans,
President

Senate Education Chairman Elkin and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Andy Fisher,
Vice-President

I would like to offer you my thoughts on HB 1532, a bill that uses tax payer dollars to help fund private schools. As a superintendent of a rural K-12 public school in North Dakota, I am adamantly opposed to this bill as it is written. While I agree with student and parent choice when it comes to education, I do not believe this bill is good for the over \$100,000 student in public education settings across North Dakota.

Deidre Mack

Ryan Schumacher

This appropriation only impacts urban students in North Dakota. The private schools are located in urban areas of the state, so this bill does not achieve the goal of student choice for the rural students of North Dakota. It will actually result in rural students receiving less support this biennium as it would divert education dollars away from rural schools.

Megan Oase

Angie Eberle, Business Mgr.

The largest concern that I have with this bill is it allocates tax dollars to private schools that do not have to provide educational opportunities to all students. Private schools can still pick and choose their students with no accountability or transparency. The idea of school choice is not addressed with this bill. Over \$23 million of the \$24 million proposed in this bill would go to families who are already in private schools.

On behalf of Scranton Public School, I want to thank all of you for your support for rural public schools. With that in mind, I ask that you oppose HB 1532 as it will not support rural public schools and will not accomplish what it intends to accomplish, and that is student choice for all students, rural and urban!

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