

March 13, 2023

Senate Education Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1532. I believe public dollars should be spent on students in public schools. The voucher program would not equally benefit all North Dakotans, only private school students in large cities. The rural students would not benefit and the rural taxpayers would be subsidizing students and families in other communities. Why give public funds to private schools that do not have the same accountability measures as public schools do. Nothing in the bill prohibits the private schools from increasing their tuition rates all while receiving state funds. If private schools receive state funds, they then should not be allowed to turn students away that they deem too difficult to serve. They should have to take all students just like public schools do, including students with disabilities. So I ask you to please VOTE NO on HB 1532.

Thank you for your time in reading my response on this matter.

Collette Hertz,

Harvey Public School Board Vice-Chairman and proud public rural citizen of ND