

From: Brian Nolan

To: Senator Keith Boehm

Subject: HB 1532 Comments

Good morning Senator Boehm. I am writing to you this morning as a taxpayer and Hazen School Board member to share my opposition of House Bill # 1532. I firmly believe that public dollars should be spent in public schools. It is also my opinion that it is inappropriate to give public funds to private schools without any accountability measures put in place by the state. In addition, nothing in this bill prohibits private schools from increasing tuition rates while also receiving these state funds. Unlike our public schools, private schools are allowed to turn away students they deem too difficult to serve, including students with disabilities and other special needs. While our public schools welcome all students, it is unfair that state funds may be shared equally, however, the choice of which students a district selects to accept is not. Ultimately, a voucher program would not equally benefit all North Dakotans. Students in larger cities with private schools will see a greater benefit than rural students and our rural taxpayers will be subsidizing students and families in other communities. While I fully support a parent's right to choose an educational experience for their child, I do not believe public dollars should support schools that do not have to meet all of the same requirements as public schools. Thank you for your time and have a wonderful day.

Very Respectfully,  
Brian Nolan  
Hazen, ND