From: <u>Damewood, Lorene</u>
To: <u>Holly Broxterman</u>

Cc: <u>Cindy Holscher</u>; <u>Cindy Neighbor</u> Subject: Oppposition to HB 2550

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I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2550 which allows certain students to claim "scholarships" for private schools. This provision would take away money from public schools which we, as a State, are required to provide for all children in the state. I am now retired, but have been an educator. I have a B.A. in Education, an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and an ED.S in Special Education/Learning Disabilities. My time in the classroom, at all levels, has shown me that children need the interaction of a diverse group of students and teachers in order to learn more about the world around us than is found in a homogeneous bubble of likeminded peers, which is what too many "private" schools are at this time. We also need to sharply curtail home schooling, as this is an even worse way for children to learn. Children need the socialization provided by other children and adults. As I see it, this is part of the problem facing our nation today, where people are unable to think for themselves and hostile to anyone who doesn't "think" the way they do.

So, get rid of the plans to divert more state money for private education and work to implement the best public schools we can have for our children. Time to vote against HB 2550.

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