

Dear Legislators,

My name is CaraLee Heiser and I am a secondary science teacher at Dickinson High School in Dickinson, North Dakota. I currently teach Forensic Science, Chemistry and Advanced Placement Chemistry to sophomores, juniors and seniors. I have a total of 25 years of teaching experience.

I am writing in opposition of SB2260. As I see it, this bill sets teachers up for failure. Let me explain. Each week I set aside time out of my day to plan lessons for each of the classes I teach at Dickinson High School. I identify learning targets, plan activities & lab experiments centered around the learning targets, and then plan for assessment of student learning. Sometimes my plans go off without a hitch, but often times what happens is..."life". By "life", I mean that kids may be absent due to illness/activities/vacations and need additional time for learning. I may also have some, or many, students that struggle with the content we are learning. When any of these things happen, I need to be able to adjust and modify my learning targets (a.k.a. my lesson plan) to meet the needs of my students. Because I have many years of experience, I can adjust and modify my lesson plans quickly and without many students even noticing. I do all of this to reach all students where they are.

If you intend for me to post my lesson plans 7 days ahead of time, and follow them to a "T", then that doesn't allow me for much adaptation for students when they learn material quickly and are able to advance and learn more than I've planned in my lessons. You also aren't allowing me to change and adapt when students don't get it and need additional instruction and practice before an assessment is given.

My initial thoughts when learning about this bill is that 1. The writer of this bill doesn't understand the ramifications of what is included and 2. Whomever has written this bill doesn't really understand what goes into the thought process or planning of lessons done by teachers all over this state and country. Either way, I am disheartened that this bill should take time out of your already busy schedules.

Please vote no on SB2260. It's what makes sense to educators who are keeping the best interests of their students at the forefront of their instructional planning.

Sincerely,

CaraLee Heiser