

House Education Committee

March 11, 2025

SB 2244 – Testimony in Opposition

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Karen Eriksmoen. I live in District 11 and I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 2244.

I am a retired teacher and a parent of four children who received their education through North Dakota public schools. As teachers, we know we are accountable to our students and their parents/guardians and this is taken seriously! There are already adequate avenues to connect with the teachers of our students.

Through orientation and available sources, parents learn about the school policies and the avenues available to reach out to a teacher/principal with concerns, etc. Parents are informed about curriculum for the classes their student will take and have contact information from each teacher on how to connect with them if there are questions.

If there are concerns, parents can excuse their children from presentations they are not comfortable with. That is already a parental right! This bill seems to address some mistrust of our educational system and teachers and seeks to make it more difficult for teachers to teach the state approved curriculum to which teachers are accountable.

Parents have a legal recourse to follow if they do not think they are being heard.

This is unnecessary legislation, and it only adds a burden on teachers to take additional steps to communicate with parents when there is already a system in place in our public schools. If a parental request is made there is a protocol to follow, and it can be as simple as picking up the phone and calling the teacher or the principal to share your concerns and arrange a meeting, if needed.

SB 2244 is not the way to go and is not necessary. I urge a NO PASS vote on bill SB 2244.

Thank you for your attention,

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