

Chair Heinert and members of the education committee,

I am writing today in regard to HB1144 proposing to require annual mandated reporter training for members of the education and early childhood communities.

I am neutral in my opinion about this proposed law from the perspective of an early childhood professional since 2005. I understand the importance of mandated reporting with professionals who work with vulnerable populations, but I also feel like an annual mandatory training for early childhood professionals could be better utilized with a shift of focus to something like abusive head trauma with time to reflect on self-care options and stress-reduction strategies for caregivers to prevent child abuse and neglect which could include a section on the duties and responsibilities as a mandated reporter.

I support those who are working to prevent abuse and neglect as well as education on the signs to watch for while working with our youngest citizens.

Michelle Roeszler
Fargo, ND