



1 HB 1144 – Mandated training for reporters of child abuse and neglect

2 Testimony in opposition or neutral with amendment request

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, for the record my  
4 name is Dr. Aimee Copas and I serve as the executive director for the North Dakota  
5 Council of Educational Leaders representing your school leaders in K12 throughout the  
6 state the of North Dakota.

7 I come to you in opposition today not because understanding what being a mandated  
8 reporter means in North Dakota, but rather due to the annual mandate coupled with the  
9 need for local districts to determine how to utilize the days established by the state for  
10 professional development so that the development is focused on the PD needs of that  
11 district at that time. It is also for a general level of respect for those in the profession  
12 that they do not need to be retrained on the same content annual as they have the  
13 capacity to retain information – after all – all these folks are educators. Training  
14 mandates have proven to be a source of extreme frustration and ultimately often a large  
15 amount of redundancy is found.

16 We respect, however, the intent behind this bill – which brings me to my amendment.  
17 We’d request that at the minimum we adjust the frequency of this bill. As administrators  
18 and leaders, we’d suggest that this training be mandated in your first year as a contracted  
19 teacher, and then again once during each license renewal cycle. Considering that  
20 educators have always been mandated reporters and that understanding, and  
21 responsibility is nothing new to us, that training at this level of frequency is appropriate.

22 Thank you for considering this option as you discuss this bill.

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoferz*