

**Do Pass Testimony  
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota  
on HB1231  
in the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1231 is much needed legislation.

I have a little knowledge of this issue. We have a child who has within the past couple of years been diagnosed with dyslexia. Their dyslexia was masked by their ability to self-learn compensation in reading, so their dyslexia went undiagnosed even though it caused other issues of writing and word formation that were attributed to another learning disability.

We had been working with our local school district for years to get an understanding of how to address the issues and move forward. Through our own family's knowledge of the DSM, we suspected there were some possibilities of dyslexia. We received much pushback from the school district. They did not test for dyslexia and were sure our child did not have it. We paid for outside testing and found out dyslexia was the issue. When we brought this information back to the Fargo Public School District, we were told dyslexia is a medical issue, not an educational issue, and they could not "treat" it. We went back to our outside provider, and they started educating our child. When we submitted this to our medical insurance, they said it was an educational issue and not covered.

We are now educating our child. I believe it certainly is the parent's responsibility for the upbringing and education of their children, however the taxes collected should contribute to this education, not be diverted away from the basics such as the three "R's".

Just the other day, I was reviewing some Earth Science with my child and going through the concepts of plate tectonics and its effect on volcanic activity. Our dyslexic child thoroughly understood the concepts through oral discussion and questioning, but when they completed the multiple choice questions on the test, they had flipped the answers around even though they knew the plate tectonic process well.

Some individual school districts around the state each are currently engaged in spending millions of dollars in the trendy, unsafe social engineering "education" programs that have cropped up in the past couple of years. The schools have recently hire six-figured salaried directors that configure these social engineering

programs, which often work against the student's individual religious beliefs. They call them "safe", but they are anything but safe, and the monies that could provide real education to students get diverted.

Parents are paying tremendously more in taxes for education, and we are not getting our children's basic education needs met. Some can't read and write due to unaddressed dyslexia. It is a shame this is a common, well-established and known disability that is currently unaddressed in our educational system. The teacher's union has also been slow to react to this. If they had timely reacted, I wouldn't be writing this testimony right now. Their focus has been diverted to other areas.

HB1231 is legislation that should receive broad support. Whether you are a liberal who wants to dump endless monies into the educational system or a conservative who wants the basic educational needs met through targeted expenditures, HB1231 will assist both camps in achieving their goal.

I thank the sponsors of this bill. They have done a fabulous job. Please give HB1231 a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you,

*Douglas B. Sharbono*

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