

Chairman Heinart and board members. My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the superintendent of Alexander Public School in Alexander, ND. I am here in opposition of HB 1337.

Alexander Public School has been working on safety and security over the last ten years. As a school leader, I am very aware of the importance of safety. As the district leader, I take the safety of my 300+ students and 56 staff members personally as a great priority in every decision that I make as well as my school board members.

Currently we have in place:

- door barricades,
- fire extinguishers,
- emergency bags,
- Navigate 360 software: software that allows instant check in, communication in emergencies with law enforcement, fire department and local Emergency management
- Sheriff department has access to cameras
- ALICE training for staff and students,
- Secure entrance
- SRO,
- camera system with televisions in the front office and principal offices
- alert system, panic buttons, ability for any staff member to set off security alarm
- phones in all rooms
- Safety crisis handbook put together with law enforcement
- currently working on placing cement barricades in front of our entrances to stop a motor vehicle from coming in (given to the school from the fire department)

My board designated the dollars in safety and security where and when needed. If you look at last year's budget, you would not find the dollars expended in what has been invested over the last ten years with a concentration on safety and security.

My current needs assessment points to a need for new math curriculum, professional development in English Language Arts, and mental health of students. A blanket mandate of where to expend our money does not address the local needs of our school. Our local school board directs dollars through our approved budget based on our ever-changing needs assessment.

My job is expending my proprietors money and managing the education of their precious children, both their dollars and their children bring out passion and high emotions especially when they are unhappy. My local school district has decided not to allow licensed carriers on campus and are supported in their decision by those who elected them to the position. We practice empowerment through education and training to protect our staff and students.

The Alexander Public School local board knows when and where to expend dollars to protect our students and staff. With that, I will stand for any questions.