

Dear Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1488. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

First, the logistics of this bill would deter anyone from joining any club at any school in the state. Fargo South High School lists 40 academic, co-curricular clubs, and non-curricular clubs. These do not include athletic teams (27 teams), nor fine arts (11 activities).

Logistically, requiring written permission from parents for their student to attend a single club meeting would create havoc and mountains of paperwork for teachers and advisers who are already overwhelmed and burning out.

School activities are when students are allowed to explore who they are, figure out where they belong, and where they can be themselves.

We should be encouraging our students to branch out and learn everything there is to learn about this world. Requiring parent permission would deter students from exploring the world around them.

We want strong, independent thinkers who are well-rounded. Requiring parent permission could block the next Gordon Ramsey, simply because a parent refused to allow their child to attend a cooking club meeting, or the next Picasso, the next Attorney General, the next Temple Grandin... all because the parents would not or could not give permission.

Vote DO NOT PASS on House Bill 1488.

Thank you,

Emily Vieweg