

As a mother of a teen in the North Dakota Public School Systems, I oppose HB 1526. This bill should be reviewed very carefully by legislators to understand the full implications of its impact. It is simply too prescriptive on schools and promotes education that makes North Dakota a less inclusive state. This bill is not in the best interest of the youth of our state.

For example, this bill requires abstinence only education as the standard rather than comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information for teens. Abstinence only education has proven ineffective and harmful to young people leaving them ill-equipped to make safe sexual decisions. The majority of parents of high school students do not support abstinence only education in school. "More than 93 percent of parents place high importance on sex education in both middle and high school. Sex education in middle and high school is widely supported by parents regardless of their political affiliation."

This is just one example, amongst many, of how this bill is not in the best interests of our youth or schools. Please do not support HB 1526 with a Do Not Pass vote.

Source: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0180250>