

My name is Kimberly Hurst and I reside in District 1. I am asking that you please render a do pass on House Bill 1526. As a parent of four students in the public school system of North Dakota I have discovered that Social Emotional Learning creates trauma where there is none so that schools can justify more SEL; thereby creating more trauma to treat. "SEL advances educational equity", yet 'Equity' implies that an individual may need to experience or receive something different (not equal) in order to maintain fairness and access. SEL is based on the belief that invisible systems of power and privilege hold some people back in often invisible ways because of their race, gender, sexuality, or other marginalized identity factors. Therefore, "equity" requires giving some identity groups privileges in order to redress (redistribute resources) the perceived systemic imbalance. Meaning, SEL's foundation is psychology, in which my question remains, "when did we license our teachers within the public school districts to treat students without a license with this kind of *psychological therapy*?" The last I checked, a teacher doesn't have to obtain a psychology degree, but they are allowed and encouraged to treat children with Social Emotional therapy? I would expect North Dakota to do better.

In North Dakota, SEL is an optional instruction. To exercise my parental rights I *can* opt my children out of this instruction. However, in WBSD7, I cannot opt my 8th grader out of SEL instruction because it is integrated directly into the curriculum itself with 'Units' titled verbatim, "Social Emotional Health", which is a complete violation of my parental rights.

SEL is literally a trojan horse for Critical Race Theory and CRT is prohibited in North Dakota. ND Century Code 15.1-21-05.1; *Curriculum - Critical race theory - Prohibited. Each school district and public school shall ensure instruction of its curriculum is factual, objective, and aligned to the kindergarten through grade twelve state content standards. A school district or public school may not include instruction relating to critical race theory in any portion of the district's required curriculum under sections 15.1-21-01 or 15.1-21-02, or any other curriculum offered by the district or school. For purposes of this section, "critical race theory" means the theory that racism is not merely the product of learned individual bias or prejudice, but that racism is systemically embedded in American society and the American legal system to facilitate racial inequality. The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to govern this section.*

Interestingly enough even as Century Code is written, WBSD7 has 'Habitudes' as an approved resource with the "Golden Buddha"; "*that teaches us the value of knowing and leveraging on our strengths and gifts.*" Conditioning children to conform to a one size fits all mental health box that is the very definition of CRT and *Social-ism*.

Along with violation of parental rights, the illegal surveying of our children about mental health, is a federal offense under the Pupil of Protection Rights Amendment; PPRA safeguards parental rights with data mining children in regards to:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;

- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
- income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

WBSD7 has violated PPRA on more than one occasion. The reality is, I have had to educate my public school district about the federal law, century code and basic parental rights this past year in regards to SEL and CRT. This underscores that our North Dakota Century Code is lacking the very definitions of what is actually prohibited, so I urge you to support the passing of House Bill 1526 to safeguard parental rights and protect our children in the state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

Kimberly Hurst