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North Dakota Legislature
Bismarck, ND

3/6/2023

RE: SB2167

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB-2167 and reducing the waiting period from 14 days to 5 days for the following reasons:

1. As the coordinator of the state's largest support group, Tri-city Home Educators Association, I field numerous calls from panicked and upset parents who want to homeschool their children right away due to serious illness or traumatizing bullying of their student or because of educational and development needs that go unaddressed by administration. Subjecting these students and parents to an additional 14 days in the toxic environment they wish to flee is simply cruel and unnecessary.
2. When registering a student to attend public or private school within North Dakota, there is no waiting period. If a student wishes to transfer from public to private school, they are able to do so immediately. If a student wishes to enroll in public school, they too are able to do so immediately. It should be the same for homeschooling students.
3. Often the decision to homeschool is made close to the start of school in August or over the Christmas break when a 14 day waiting period is not possible. What is the point of sending a child to school for two weeks only to be withdrawn? Seems like a waste of resources and administrative effort on behalf of our already over-worked teaching staff.
4. When I pulled my child from public school in 2009 to enroll him in private school, I alerted the principal, secretary and the teacher. Yet no one ever responded to my notifications nor was there any sort of exit interview or process. Thus, there is clearly no procedure being followed when a student is withdrawn, so there is no need for a 14 day waiting period.

I think that reducing the waiting period from 14 days to 5 days will not only save stress on behalf of the student and his parents but it will also reduce the effort exerted by teachers and the resources expended by the school system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,
Kristy Rose