

SB 2247
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SB2247

House Education Committee

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Dr. Casey Ryan, Chair, State Board of Higher Education

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Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Dr. Casey Ryan, and I serve as the Chair of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. I am here today on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education to provide testimony in opposition to SB2247.

On behalf of the SBHE, I wish to convey my appreciation to the members of the ND Legislature and the House Education Committee member for their support of higher education. The Board understands the concerns of the bill sponsor and those of this Committee. It is important for this Committee to know that the NDUS does not offer courses in any of the “specified topics” listed in SB2247. Personally, I believe the goal of our colleges and universities is to teach students “how” to learn—not “what” to learn.”

At its meeting last month, the State Board of Higher Education, took a formal position to oppose SB2247 citing Article VIII, Section 6.b of the North Dakota Constitution that directed the newly formed Board on July 6, 1939, to “have full authority over the institutions under its control with the right, among its other powers, to prescribe, limit, or modify the courses offered at the several institutions.” SB2247 certainly falls within the prescribed powers of the State Board as outlined in the Constitution.

Again, I appreciate the concerns of the bill sponsors of SB2247 but respectfully request a “Do Not Pass” on SB2247. This concludes my testimony related to SB2247. I remain available to members of the Committee for additional questions.

