

SB 2254
3/15/23 AM-PM
EDU
Finley-Deville

SB 2254, Hearing House Education Committee 3-15-23

Good morning Representative Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. For the record my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVillle. I am an enrolled citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara nation. I represent the people of District 4 A which includes the Fort Berthold Reservation. I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2254.

As a Representative of a district that encompasses a reservation and being a life long resident of Fort Berthold Reservation, I understand the challenges that our school districts face. I believe that Senate bill 2254 preempts the search for a real solution to the issues that North Dakota education system faces.

Interference by a superintendent can create a range of issues, from micromanaging teachers and staff to making unilateral decisions without input from other stakeholders. Such interference can have a negative impact on the functioning of the school or district, as well as the learning outcomes of students. Especially when decisions are being forced top down by an outside agency that has no connection to the community.

Implying that identified school districts are mishandling processes, reporting or funds will create a climate of distrust and hostility among staff and faculty, which can affect morale and motivation. Additionally, it can lead to a lack of cooperation and collaboration, hindering efforts to improve educational outcomes.

It is essential for superintendents to work collaboratively with other members of the educational community, including teachers, parents, and community leaders. Effective communication and a willingness to listen to others' perspectives can help avoid interference and promote a positive and productive educational environment.

Education has always been a priority for me and my family. Passing Senate bill 2254 is not a solution to creating a thriving education system. Our focus should go toward efforts that support teachers and school administrators that are committed to closing the achievement gap for our students. Thank you, I stand for questions.