

House Human Services Committee
March 22nd, 2023
SB 2260 - Testimony in Opposition

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl and I am writing in opposition to SB 2260. I oppose this bill because I am a parent of three small children, and this bill is unnecessary. Parents already have rights in North Dakota.

Section 2 is all about public school education and would place an undue burden upon teachers and administration, such as in lines 24-26 on page 4: "Review, copy, and record all curriculum..."

Think about how hard it will become to recruit teachers in North Dakota if they have to have every single thing ready for review by parents. They are already putting in hours and hours with our kids, spending time making lesson plans, meeting with parents, and taking extra care with students who need it. I think about my child's first grade teacher and how this could keep her moving forward with lesson planning if a parent wanted to review everything every week.

On page 4, lines 9-13 are all about increasing parent involvement in school. I am a strong supporter of parent involvement in their children's education, and there are already avenues for concerned parents to make their voices heard. They can get involved in the PTA. They can reach out to their child's teacher who is there to work with parents on their concerns. Parents can also reach out to school board members, speak at school board meetings, or file to run as a candidate for school board.

I am concerned this bill will be used to require public schools to make decisions based on the whims of a few parents who try to direct staff, teachers, and administration on how to run the school or the district. This could impact my children's education.

This bill is a copy and paste of what other states, like Florida and Utah, are doing. This is not a North Dakota solution to a North Dakota problem. There is not a problem. Please give this bill a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.