

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Human Services Committee:

For the record, I am Kris Kuehn, Superintendent of the Nesson School District in Ray, ND, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 2260.

This is nonsensical legislation, if for no other reason than it is a massive overreach of legislative authority. We are governed by locally elected school boards that are charged with oversight and operation of their local schools. This "Parental Rights" bill is being pushed on a national platform and has no place in the great state of North Dakota.

If this bill originated at a grass roots level, because local school boards were not listening to their constituents, it would have some merit. That this bill has been introduced in twenty-six states, according to a quick google search, proves my point. This is a national issue in search of a local solution, and has no place in North Dakota Law.

The bill is problematic from the school administrator level through the teacher level. We are in a horrific teacher shortage, and legislation such as SB 2260 only serves to magnify what is already becoming an unmanageable problem.

Specifically, Section 1 would prohibit school administrators from using video or surveillance without parental permission. Surveillance systems are used extensively in schools to ensure student safety. Limiting the use of such a valuable tool would inhibit the ability to investigate potential crimes, including theft, destruction of school property, assault/fighting, etc. This just seems like a huge step backwards.

Section 2 is problematic at the teacher level on multiple layers. The section would require all teachers to release every lesson plan and curriculum they will use at least 7 days in advance to all parents. Lesson plans are just that, plans, and like all plans, they are subject to change. Anybody that has ever spent time in a school knows that the only thing constant is change. Teachers are constantly adjusting on the fly. Limiting their ability to adapt, or to be tied to a lesson plan that is published "at least 7 days" in advance would severely inhibit their effectiveness, and hinder student learning. There are days when lessons from yesterday need to be retaught. That would certainly not appear in a lesson plan that is published seven days in advance. Again, this seems like an extensive overreach, and a massive loss of local control.

Again, this is a cookie cutter bill that is being pushed from the national level down. There is not one thing in this bill that would make education better for the students of North Dakota.

Please consider giving a "Do Not Pass" stamp on this bill. The students and teachers of Ray, and North Dakota deserve to be treated better than this.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Kuehn.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Kuehn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.