

March 21, 2023
Members of the committee:
My name is Nick Amb. I am the elementary school principal at North Border in Walhalla. I am urging the committee to vote NO on SB 2260. There are several reasons this bill is bad policy, and I will elaborate on each briefly. No one is disputing the rights of parents to determine their child's best interests in education. I do dispute the unnecessary requirements that are duplicative and arduous, and fear that these requirements will be another thing school staff are dumped on with.

1. The bill is unnecessary and duplicative. This bill adds another layer of government, bureaucracy, and red tape. It presents onerous requirements to school staff. The curriculum is already available, per our policy. I encourage any parent to come to the school and visit! Get to know your child's teachers!! Be a part of open house, awards day, parent teacher conferences, there are many opportunities to be a valued and important part of a child's education in the public school setting.
2. The bill highlights that we cannot video a child without parental consent. We already use a media release for publicizing what our schools are doing on our website and social media accounts. Consider the teacher who wishes to video her students as they do activities in PK, and sharing that out to the class group on Remind or perhaps the parents themselves. What about sporting events? If one parent declines, will streaming and video coverage not be allowed? Another overreach by state government all in what appear to be political efforts to demonize public school educators.
3. Finally, we are nearing a critical level in school staffing. Placing additional burdens on school staff is not the way to encourage more people to go into teaching. In fact, you may have a number of quality, veteran teachers say "You know what? I really don't need this anymore." They may move to other states, or pursue other lines of work. Who is going to educate our children when the teachers are all gone? I'd like to know.

I ask the committee for a do not pass recommendation on this bill, and I ask all representatives to consider whether this poorly crafted bill (I suspect straight from a think tank) is good policy for the children of the state of North Dakota. Sincerely yours, Nick Amb