



BELFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

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March 21, 2023

Dear Chairperson Larson and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Shannon Meier, and I am the 7-12 principal at Belfield High School. I have some reservations regarding SB 2260 and ask you to consider a do not pass.

- As an educator and a parent, I have no interest in usurping any parent's fundamental right and responsibility regarding the upbringing of their child. This seems to be a consistent theme in the supporting testimony on behalf of SB 2260.
- As Mr. Hoherz pointed out in his testimony, there are times when Social Services needs to visit with a child about delicate situations happening in the home. When these visits happen, they need to be done in a confidential manner, and the best opportunity Social Services has for this is the school. While it may not be comfortable for the parents/guardians, when these situations arise, these visits need to be done in a way that keeps the best interest of the student front and center.
- Something we pride ourselves on is taking advantage of "teachable moments." Requiring us to provide curriculum seven days before the course begins is unreasonable. Expecting teachers to know exactly what they will teach all year and to have it ready for parents to review is beyond the scope of what is expected of teachers. To add this to an already full teacher's plate and to subject them to this kind of additional speculate review may further add to an already significant teacher shortage. It certainly limits our ability to take advantage of those light bulb moments when students make connections – those teachable moments that educators strive for. With all due respect, let us do the work we are trained to do.

Trust that your administrators and teachers know what they are doing and have children's best interest at heart. Policies and procedures are in place; this bill goes well above and beyond what is appropriate in an education setting.

Please consider a do not pass on SB 2260.

Respectfully,


Shannon L. Meier

"Preparing for tomorrow, today"