

I am writing this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2260. I am a Special Education teacher and have spent many years in this profession. As an education professional, I have never felt so degraded and underappreciated as I do right now. And trust me, this profession is always under scrutiny. Every educator I know went into this profession because of their love for kids and wanting to make a difference. We put in way more hours than what we get paid for, we spend our own money on supplies that our students need, we get cussed at, hit, and disrespected by students, parents, and our own government. Add this list of stressors to the workload that is our job, and you can see why this country is struggling with teacher retention. Instead of having a government that supports its teachers, you are now coming in with this Senate Bill that will add even more to our workload.

Parents have every right to be a part of their child's education, but they also need to put forth the effort to do this. This information has always been available for parents, they just need to be involved. Parents need to be a part of School Board meetings, PAC meetings, talking to your child's teacher, and even talking to your child. As a teacher, we are working to educate our students. By adding this extra step into our already busy workload, it will be taking away from our students. If this bill passes, North Dakota should be prepared for an even bigger teacher shortage. Enough is enough; it is time to start showing some respect for those people that educate our children.

Tonya Bishop