

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to plead to you NOT TO PASS Senate Bill 2260. It is detrimental to the public education system in the following ways:

1. Prohibiting schools from implementing safety surveillance upon parental request extinguishes one of the best tools SROs use keep our schools safe. I work in a relatively small school district, and I could name many times I've utilized our surveillance system with the help of our SRO to solve issues. I would list a few for you but I have more concerns to address in this email before the deadline.
2. If teachers are required to submit lesson plans and every bit of curriculum and instructional material, I would lose some real teachable moments in my lessons. If students have questions I don't know the answer to, I often model rational adult behavior: "I don't know the answer to that; let's look it up!" Together, we search for reliable sources and seek out the answer to the question. If I understand this bill correctly, these beautiful teachable moments would open me up to litigious actions from my state or parents. These joyful inquiries are one of the many reasons I so enjoy teaching. Beyond the unreasonable assertion that teachers have time in their days to procure their lesson plans 7 days in advance, I am deeply saddened and concerned to see them legislated.
3. As a Pride Club advisor, I see great harm in Section 2.2.f requiring parental consent for children to be referred to as their preferred pronouns/names. Many LGBTQ kids do not have a safe and understanding adult at home who will make such a referral. This seems to legislate bullying from adults to LGBTQ students who already receive more bullying than non-queer students. LGBTQ youth are four times a likely to attempt suicide than their peers; suicide already being the leading cause of death for young people aged 10-24 (The Trevor Project). Misgendering transgender students or calling LGBTQ students by their dead names reduces their risk of suicidality by half (Journal of Adolescent Health).

I am an elementary librarian at Central Cass Public Schools. I have taught in Minnesota, and I can say I have greatly appreciated the support and trust that North Dakota gives its public educators. It is extremely disappointing to see our tax dollars being spent on micromanaging professional educators' classrooms. Comparatively, Minnesota just affirmed free lunch for all Minnesota students.

As a mom with kids entering the public school system next year, please start listening to educators. The teacher shortage is a CRISIS to which our state is not immune. I worry about the quality and integrity of teachers would remain in the field if this disparaging bill managed to pass.

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