

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony in regard to SB 2260. My name is Eric Henrickson. I am the principal of Longfellow Elementary School in Fargo. I have been in education for 25 years, and during that time I have followed the legislative process but never in my years have I seen a bill that concerns me as much as this one.

I am all for involving parents in the process of educating children and I take great pride in having strong relationships with our families. However, the wording of this bill contains so much ambiguity it would cause chaos throughout North Dakota.

Under section 1 “Parental rights are reserved exclusively to a parent of a child without obstruction...including the right to...

- “Direct the moral or religious training of the child” Does this mean we can’t talk about being good people of character, treating each other with kindness, etc. because it might be viewed as dealing with morals?
- “Opt the child out of any personal analysis, evaluation, survey, or data collection by a school district which would capture data except what is necessary to establish a student's education record.” What does this mean? Teachers could no longer do Kahoots which are electronic surveys some teachers use to see if the students are learning? Would teachers be allowed to collect informal data during their small group reading/writing/math time?
- “A parent may bring suit for a violation of this section...” We are already short of teachers. Do you think a high school student wants to be a teacher if they can be sued because a parent doesn’t like the content they are teaching?

Section 2 deals with the curriculum side of things where parents must be able to review the syllabus at least seven days before the start of class. Within that language it says the syllabus will contain “a list of all curriculum used in the class or course.” Good teachers never have their entire curriculum laid out for the entire year as they know they must adjust to the need of their students.

Within section 2 there is also language regarding needing parents written consent for a presentation that relates to many things, but one of the items listed is romantic relationships. Does this mean that if a 1st grade teacher read *Sleeping*

Beauty, they would need parental consent? When asked about this one of the sponsors of the bill said "There are very different topics that you'd address in kindergarten versus what you'd address as a senior in high school. I think that would be case-by-case dependent." Nowhere in any of this language does it spell this out.

Education these days is hard enough. I would rather focus on children coming from poverty or dealing with mental health issues. Please vote no on this bill as it will send educators scrambling to other states. Thank you for your time.