

March 21, 2023

North Dakota House Human Services Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 2260. I am a teacher of junior high and high school social studies at Thompson Public School in Thompson, ND. I have been a teacher for 34 years in this school district. I thoroughly enjoy my job and working with the young people of North Dakota.

Senate Bill 2260 would be the death of current events and discussion in social studies classrooms. It would also be a violation of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Social Studies Content Standards. We regularly discuss current events as they occur relating to a variety of topics. As a conservative North Dakotan, I monitor the discussion topics and allow the students the opportunity to share their views and debate issues just as you do in your chambers. As it is written, SB 2260 would prevent me from having any impromptu conversations about current events or for that matter, any events occurring in our school as they would not be in the 7 day prior-provided lesson plans.

I can't imagine having a classroom so regimented. In fact, I do not believe this bill abides by the North Dakota Social Studies Content Standards which read:

The knowledge of names and definitions is essential in/for acquiring knowledge; however, high-quality teaching and learning demands more than merely mastering facts and terms. Therefore, in teaching these standards, an inquiry approach is encouraged. Activities and assessments that require students to think, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, compare, contrast, and argue using a civic engagement lens should be emphasized.

**6-12 Civics & Government Standards**

US.6\_12.6 Connect the past to the present using current events.

**6-12 North Dakota Studies Standards**

ND.6\_12.4 Analyze the historical and current events and their impact on the development of North Dakota.

**6-12 Sociology Standards**

Code Standard Benchmarks Guiding Topics

SOC.6\_12.1 Utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills to develop an understanding of different perspectives of sociology.

SOC.6\_12.1-2.D2.1 Define and provide examples of culture.

SOC.6\_12.1-2.D2.2 Explain the relationship between culture and society. Ethnocentrism vs. cultural relativism, culture shock, values, and beliefs Family, school, government, religion, economy, social statuses, roles

SOC.6\_12.2 Practically apply concepts of sociology.

SOC.6\_12.1-2.D2.3 Explain important institutions in society. Historical context of social change, countercultures, social movements

SOC.6\_12.1-2.D2.4 Explain how social institutions and cultures change over time.

An inquiry approach is encouraged in the ND Social Studies Content Standards put forth by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. This standard cannot be realized if SB 2260 is passed.

There may be some redeeming qualities in SB 2260, but as it is written it will totally stifle student initiative and discussion as well as violate the North Dakota Standards for Social Studies Instruction. Freedom of speech is a topic in American Government classes. What is the protocol to teach freedom of speech to students without allowing discussion that hasn't been pre-approved?

Please let each school's administrators evaluate teachers' appropriateness in the classroom as they have done for years. It will be impossible to teach to the standards if we are to allow those standards to be set by each student's individual parents.

I strongly urge a NO vote on SB 2260.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Strand  
Social Studies Teacher  
Thompson Public School