

# Testimony in Opposition to SB 2260

My name is Connie Hoffman, Fargo, ND, writing in opposition to SB 2260.

Do Not Pass SB 2260 - Relating to fundamental parental rights, parental involvement in education, and parental right to consent to medical treatment of the parent's child.

Reasons for Do Not Pass:

1. Medical treatment and consent to treatment of minors is already addressed with existing laws and policies developed by health care facilities.
2. Educators follow professional guidelines and standards related to school curriculum. Parents can certainly talk with their child's teacher if they have a concern. Or share positive comments as well.
3. Parents can share their perspectives, concerns and support by attending school board meetings, at parent teacher conferences, directly with the principal or superintendent, joining parent teacher organizations, and using many other opportunities to influence their child's school experience.
4. What teacher has enough time to send out and track the return of various "permission slips" for various assignments throughout the year? This is totally impractical. We want our teachers to have time to teach.
5. I feel this bill is an attempt to intimidate and demean our healthcare professionals and educators, with the threat of legal action held over them, by a parent who just doesn't "like" something.
6. Consider the situation of a child who is being abused and needs a safe place to report that child abuse. The school nurse, teacher or counselor is already required by law to report that abuse. I feel this bill may conflict with that reporting process currently in place.
7. The overall intent of this bill appears to be to undermine our public schools.
8. Instead, we can work together and talk things out instead of legislating every detail related to schools and healthcare. Parents can and should engage and partner with their child's teachers and healthcare providers. My experience has been we all want the best for our children in North Dakota.

Do Not Pass SB 2260.

Connie Hoffman  
Fargo, ND