

March 21, 2023

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Re: SENATE BILL NO. 2260

Relating to Fundamental parental rights, parental involvement in education, and parental rights to consent to medical treatment for a parent's child.

Senator, Doug Burgum, House Human Services Committee and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address SB 2260.

Hello, my name is Katie Berry and I am a teacher at Midway Public School. I am writing to testify against the Senate Bill No. 2260 and urge you to not pass this bill.

We, as Educational professionals, have been called on to do so much in the last few years and having to do one more, almost impossible task, could be devastating to our North Dakota Educational System. Our Educational team has gone through years of schooling along with yearly and monthly professional development on top of that. It is truly disheartening to hear that this bill would take away any power a teacher has in a classroom. We are professionals and we all do what is best for our classroom every day. To have our professional decisions questioned is heartbreaking! Having this bill passed and giving educational control to parents, most who aren't professionally trained or even in the education system, is discrediting us as teachers. We already have open records and if a parent has a complaint with something that is being taught or shown they can talk to the teacher and or the school district regarding their concerns. This bill would not only let them voice their concerns or thoughts on a curriculum or lesson, but would give parents or guardians complete control or power of what is being taught in the classroom. If this bill passes it is going to make our job as educators even more difficult, even almost impossible than it already is and will cause our teacher storage to rise. Please think about us teachers as a whole and everything we already have to do in a day to educate our future.

Katie Berry

Midway Public School