

Members of the House Human Services Committee

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Patty Mosset and I am a science teacher at the Hazen Middle School. I was the 2022 Mercer County Teacher of the Year and a candidate for North Dakota Teacher of the Year. I pride myself in being a hard-working, energetic teacher who offers students a wide range of learning opportunities. I am writing because I am concerned about SB 2260 causing my students to be stifled in their imagination and curiosity of science.

My first cause for concern is the wording that follows: Review, copy, and record all curriculum for each class or course offered by the school and any teacher training materials **at least three days** before use of the curriculum or teacher training materials

Every day there is breaking news somewhere in the world that directly relates to middle school science content. This February there was an earthquake in Turkey that registered at 7.8 on the Richter scale and killed thousands of people. As the news of the earthquake was unfolding, I was able to discuss information on the epicenter, we looked at internet photos of structural damage to buildings and discussed why modern engineering is so important as well as discussing advances in medicine and treatment of injuries. Under SB 2260 I would be required to give parents the opportunity to review the news of the earthquake and then wait for 3 days before I would be allowed to discuss it with my students.

On any given day I read a variety of science articles online. I might be waiting for my own children to get ready for school or passing time on a bus ride home from a ballgame, but I am not typically documenting what I read for curriculum review and meetings with parents. However, in order to share the wealth of information that I gain by reading, I would need to record the source of the article, and prepare to defend it, before I am allowed to discuss the information with my students. Just this morning I read an article about Xcel Energy's nuclear power plant in Monticello, MN which was leaking tritium, a radioactive material, into the water. This content directly relates to the classes that I teach, so we discussed it in one class. However, there is just no way that I have time in my day of teaching and coaching to record, document, and then meet with parents, simply to mention a news article that we may only discuss for about 5 minutes.

I feel this bill would stifle so many topics of current events, not to mention the impromptu questions from middle school students. I have one student in particular that has her hand raised frequently with questions that are not always on target with the subject matter documented in the curriculum. Today when I was explaining the nervous system of invertebrates, she raised her hand and asked how drugs affect our brains. This question wasn't directly related to our content but I feel very qualified to answer her since I have a double major as a science teacher as well as a medical technologist with a minor in chemistry, biology and microbiology. I have spent years working in the medical field in hospital and clinic labs as well as a cornea transplant lab prior to my 20 years of teaching. I also feel it is extremely important to talk to kids about the ill effects of drugs whenever they ask. Those can be life-changing conversations and it would be a huge mistake to have a law preventing teachers from being able to use a teachable moment.

The second item of concern with SB 2260 is with the wording: Review the syllabus, curriculum, and teacher training materials for each class or course that a parent's child is enrolled in at least **seven days** before the start of each class or course. The syllabus shall include a written description of all topics and subjects taught in a class or course, a list of all curriculum used in the class or course, the identity of all individuals providing in - person or live remote instruction in the class or course, and a description of any assemblies, guest lectures, field trips, or other educational activities that are part of the class or course

Teachers do not rank high on the pay scale and society justifies this by saying, "But you get your summers off." I have 135 middle school students, so I have 20-25 students in every section that I teach, obviously there is no spare time while they are with me. I coach two sports after school so my days are lengthened well into the evening hours from November - May. I do not have time in my school day to prepare a written description of every single thing that I teach. So the only time I would be able to prepare this list for parental review would be in the summer. Any new teacher would be forced to compile this list prior to the start of their contracted days since SB 2260 requires the curriculum compilation to be available 7 days prior to the course being taught in the

fall. Does the legislature plan to allow funding for public schools to pay teachers during the summer?

My last concern is with a parent refusing to agree to the subject matter being taught. SB 2260 states the following: A parent **may bring suit** for a violation of this section and may raise the section as a defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding whether the proceeding is brought by or in the name of the state, a private person, or other party.

According to this, if a parent does not agree with the teaching, we as teachers would be subjected to hours of meetings which we would not be paid to attend, along with lengthy paperwork to document our sources and why we believe this information is useful, and in the end we could actually be sued for teaching the students of the great state of North Dakota. This is simply going to add to the current teacher shortage.

I urge you to vote no on SB 2260 for the reasons that I have documented above. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I welcome any discussion on the future of education in North Dakota.

Sincerely,
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