

To Whom it may concern:

I write in opposition to SB 2260.

I am an Agricultural Education instructor and FFA advisor in Hettinger, ND. My opposition originates from the fact that, should this bill pass, our education system will be crippled and our children will pay the price as they go on to begin lives of their own.

Being an FFA advisor, I have the privilege of working with some of the best and brightest students in our public school system. They are leaders within the student body, and they will most certainly be the leaders of tomorrow: the leaders of our churches, our communities, and our government. I firmly believe that the restrictions this bill places on educators are nearly equivalent to placing them in shackles.

The provisions in SB 2260, with the intention of clarifying parental rights and control over a parent's child, will assuredly have tremendous adverse effects which I believe have not been acknowledged. Here is a list of some of those effects:

- The ability of teachers to spend more time on a difficult subject, an ability which is often utilized as students address new and challenging material, will be stripped from the teachers.
 - As a result, students will rapidly fall behind. They will fail to establish the base level of education on any subject which enables them to draw connections and draw their own conclusions, and will thereby be unable to achieve even modest levels of understanding and comprehension. Students will not have the foundations on which to build higher learning of any type, including such things as simple algebra.
- The ability of teachers to use additional or different teaching materials to address subjects when it becomes apparent that particular students would greatly benefit from a different approach, will be stripped from the teachers.
 - As a result, students with different learning methods (visual, audio, hands-on, experiential, etc.) will fall through the cracks and fail to learn, there again bringing about the ramifications I noted above. The fact of the matter is that, as the provisions of this bill read, a teacher could not perform the simple act of drawing a picture on the chalkboard to help a child understand a topic if that drawing was not listed in the syllabus.
- The ability of the teachers to foster critically thinking and inquisitive minds by exploring discussion and questions students have, an incredibly important aspect of developing student learning from memorization to understanding, will be stripped from the teachers.

- As a result, our children will fail to thrive academically. The students will never achieve true understanding of a subject, and they will never be able to put those lessons into practice. It is of the utmost importance that, when we get our students' minds thinking, we fuel that process.
- The ability of the teachers to address real-time events that students witness, the current problems in the banking industry, for example, will be stripped from the teachers
 - As a result, our children will go unprepared into an ever-changing and evolving world. They will be ineffective at handling changes in their daily plans and will not be aware of things going on in the world around them.

Effectively, this bill lays the groundwork for a below-average, uninquisitive, and unsuccessful generation of North Dakota students. The passing of this bill would trade the abilities of our students to be effective learners, to achieve understanding of a topic, and to become leaders in the world of tomorrow, for more layers of red tape and regulation.

As an educator in the State of North Dakota, I can sincerely say our only desire as educators is to prepare the children of today to be the business executives, entrepreneurs, and Senators and Representatives of tomorrow. To do that, we need the ability to adjust and diversify our instructional methods on the fly instead of being locked into what ever it was we planned long ago.

Childrens' minds do not follow strict syllabi and structure, and they need the ability to have their questions answered, even when that answer wasn't built into the syllabus months ago.

To preserve the ability of your children to learn effectively and to thrive, not only academically, but in life, join me in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Mack Buckmier

Agriculture Education Instructor / FFA Advisor
Hettinger High School
mackenzie.buckmier@k12.nd.us
701-567-3158