

March 21, 2023

To: House Human Services Committee

From: James Fahy, Educator – Dickinson High School

RE: Testimony against Senate Bill 2260

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is James Fahy and I am a teacher at Dickinson High School. I am currently in my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching Social Studies, both in class B schools and class A schools.

I am writing you to urge a "DO NOT PASS" on Senate Bill 2260. This bill is burdensome and is bad for our students in so many ways.

As a Social Studies teacher this would be detrimental to teaching current events in a timely manner. Many teachable moments come in a moment's notice and requiring all lesson plans and curriculum material to be made available 7 days in advance would prohibit discussion of any current event and breaking news.

Teachers with different classes would spend a lot of their contracted time uploading curriculum and resources that should be spent in student contact time and education. I personally have 5 different classes (American Government, US History, World History, Honors Modern World History, Foundations of Leadership) and every class curriculum and resources would have to be uploaded. Are legislators asking us to take MORE time from our families as we already prepare lessons and provide feedback in a timely manner well beyond our contracted hours?

Class structure is one of my strengths, however, every class is different and many times students need more time to understand an important concept which would alter the published lesson plans. As a veteran teacher I am constantly adjusting and adapting my lessons to better educate my students. This bill would not allow that to happen. I would be bound to hurry through material to make sure I am "on pace" with my published lesson plans.

Retention of teachers is already difficult in the state of North Dakota and this bill will certainly not help. I am currently 6 years from reaching my retirement and this added burden will definitely make my decision to retire at 62 easier, rather than continue in the profession that I truly love.

Again, I urge you for the sake of the mental health of our state educators to please recommend a "DO NOT PASS".

James A. Fahy