

Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Danielle Bosse, I live in District 24, and I am an elementary principal at Barnes County North Elementary School. I strongly OPPOSE SB 2260. I am considered a new administrator; however, I have already experienced first-hand the teacher shortage. Last year, I had ONE qualified applicant for a position. They were an internal applicant, leaving us with another open position to fill, with only ONE applicant for that position too. We were considered “lucky” to even fill those positions, as many districts did not.

The bill is going to take an already under trusted profession and require them to do more. Our district does all of this already. We share our curriculum choices, connect our students’ learning via Seesaw and Schoology, and consistently invite parents into our building. Adding the requirements that allow parents to question every decision our PROFESSIONALS are making daily is passively telling teachers the work and time they put into their education and continuing professional development is not important. We will LOSE more educators. Why would they choose to stay in a profession where they are not allowed to utilize their expertise.

For example, my sister started at a bank (not the area of her college degree). Within one year she was promoted and making more than I was as a classroom teacher with ten years of experience and a master’s degree. She was not yelled at by parents, sent ‘observers’ to make sure she was doing her job correctly, or having to prove she knew what she was doing. The love teachers have for students and education has its limits, and I am worried this would be it for many.

We have worked hard to build trusting relationships with our families. I have gained support from parents with their experiences as substitute teachers and volunteers. Post Covid, public education has been put under a microscope and has opened doors for parents to never set foot into their child’s school building. We encourage them to participate in committees to select and review resources. Many have chosen NOT to. We WANT parents involved, but not by forcing more work on those who never truly ‘step away’ from learning and planning for their students. Please do not punish a majority because of a few.

Section 1 of the bill would make investigations difficult. Our school is in the middle of a field and 95% of our students ride a bus. It is an unstructured time with the only adult focused on the road. Without the flexibility of surveillance cameras, we would be forced to spend funds for bus aides.

Section 2 of the bill does not put students first. Teaching and learning is supposed to be student-centered and lesson plans can change daily, or even hourly. That is why we need to retain experienced educators who understand the state expectations at each level. But, until you have been in a classroom with 18+ students, taking care of a child with a bloody nose, reassuring another child they are going home to a warm house with food, while differentiating instruction for various groups of those students, you are the wrong people to be making this decision. I encourage you to sub ONE day. You would be opposed to SB 2260 when you see the physical and mental toll teachers take daily.

I highly urge you to vote AGAINST SB 2260. Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and for your time deliberating on the issue at hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Bosse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Bosse
Elementary Principal