

Dear Senators,

As a veteran high school mathematics teacher, I am adamantly opposed to SB 2260. First and foremost, the level of planning of curriculum, supplementary curriculum, activities, speakers, videos, and field trips seven days before the start of a course is unrealistic and would be an additional burden placed upon an already stressed out profession. Teachers began a school year with a general overview of what they hope to accomplish in a course. However, this is affected by many factors that they are unaware of before they start the course. For example, each class of students each year will interact with the same teaching material differently. Some students are more prepared and mature, and this enables the teacher to move faster through the coursework and add in additional projects or activities to enhance their learning and challenge them at their ability level. Other years, a class may require remediation, especially after COVID, which means that a teacher will need to move slower and seek out supplementary instructional material. This bill would not allow a teacher to react in real time to what is needed to provide the best learning experience for his/her students. Since they had not listed these materials on the syllabus at the beginning of the year, the teachers would not be allowed to use best teaching practices to teach their students. If they did so, the teachers risk a potential lawsuit if a parent, who most likely is not a trained teacher and does not understand the reflection that goes into good teaching, challenges what they are doing.

This bill would require teachers to spend personal, unpaid time to meet this level of disclosure as no school district has the means to pay for these additional hours. A newly hired teacher fresh out of college would need to complete this before even receiving a single paycheck! Heaven help the teacher if they were hired in a small school like mine where they normally teach 6 different classes! This bill alone would be another significant reason to not go into teaching when our profession is in desperate need of an influx of new professionals.

As for other parts of the bill, things such as livestreaming concerts and athletic games would be a thing of the past as all students would need to have written permission filed with the school for it to happen. Many of the elderly who have come to rely on livestreaming to watch their grandchildren participate in various activities will no longer have that access.

Overall, Senate Bill No. 2260 is an extremely bad bill. It would put undo burdens upon both teachers and schools. It would provide parents more grounds upon which they could sue teachers. This bill's unintended consequences will be even more teachers leaving the teaching profession and schools with not enough teachers to teach their students.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Zikmund

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