

## SB #2260

68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

Senators: Paulson, Lemm, and Wobbeman

Representatives: Dyk, Heilman and Novak

My name is Kristie Miller, I am opposed to SB #2260.

In reading SB #2260, I do not understand why this bill is even being introduced. As a parent and guardian of children that reside with me, I already have natural authority over my children. In the instances mentioned, such as education, health care and mental care are already under the parental rights.

Schools are already mandated reporters of suspected abuse. Parents can already take their own children out of school for religious reasons, participate in parent/teacher's conferences. There is already a general practice for schools to notify parents of children's grades, concerns or behavioral issues.

I do believe that parents wanting to review a syllabus and look at a copy of all curriculum is unnecessary. What is the purpose of this? How would the school address a situation where some parents approve of the curriculum, field trips or assemblies and some parents do not approve of the curriculum, let alone field trips or assemblies?

I do take objection to the fact that parents are to give written consent three day prior to a teacher presenting to their class material that relates to gender roles, stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or romantic or sexual relationships. What are the authors of this bills afraid of? From what I can understand, this bill is taking aim at the LGBTQAI community. There is nothing wrong with educating the youth of North Dakota that there are people on this world who are not like themselves. School is a place of educating, learning and asking questions. Why are the authors of this bill now seeking to restrict the youth of ND on social norms, diversity issues and the children's ability to express themselves freely?

Learning isn't a harmful thing. Becoming educated and enlightened only makes for a well-rounded and socially aware person. People who are exposed to a diverse population learn about others who are like themselves, develop an understand of people which in turn eliminates myths and false stereotypes depicted by social media and harmful gossip. Fear and misnomers thrive in the absence of knowledge and education. What this bill promotes is keep the youth ignorant. I ask you what happens to the kids who go to college outside of North Dakota and realize that their education wasn't diverse?

I am a parent of a transgender person in North Dakota. I helped my child disclose to the schools and worked with the schools principal. As a parent I helped my child inform the school's what name and pronoun my child wanted to be referred by in class and in all ways at school. Now I understand not every parent is as accepting but you must understand that this bill is not helping the schools or the student.

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Contrary to what some believe, there is no big push to convert cisgender youth to become transgender or queer. First of all, that's not a thing. No one can manipulate another to become queer or transgender. People in the LGBTQAI are born queer/transgender. The people in the LGBTQAI community were not brainwashed, groomed or manipulated by a teacher, parent, babysitter, social media or any other means to become who they are today. That is the false narrative that Fox News airs, people on Facebook spew as well as people who lack knowledge of the LGBTQAI community.

I have to wonder how the authors of this bill think the youth of ND undergo surgery, get a doctors appointment, get medication, get to the clinic all without a parents/guardian's help? As a parent I had to drive my children to the clinic after I made the appointment. Once at the clinic, the staff ask for information which also requires me to produce an insurance card, a co-pay and verify certain information which also includes a signature to assign who was the person who guaranteed payment for all practices/procedures. No child can sign themselves out of school without a parental permission let alone seek and get medical treatment here in North Dakota. That isn't a thing. Medications also are not a thing in which a minor can just walk into a pharmacy, request medication and get the medication. The same goes for mental health care. None of these things can happen without a parents involvement. Again, what were the authors thinking when drafting a bill like this?

We all know that medical and mental health providers follow a code of ethics and the first thing is to "do no harm" to their patient. As a parent of a transgender person who went to all the doctor visits, counseling, picked up the medication, made all the appointments and paid for the care, I do not understand why a law has to be enacted to do what already is in place. Doctors do not make it a habit of pushing treatment or medication onto a person and where minors are concerned, a parent's permission is always required.

For the record, my daughter never arranged for medical care or counseling without my knowledge and help. The same goes for medication.

Religion should not be used as a weapon. Parents can encourage kids to go to church but not to the extent where the child suffers or becomes distressed. It is not ok to force a person to be a part of a religion when that religions ideology is harmful and humiliates a person. That's not religion that is torture.

This bill isn't necessary. Best practices are already in place and this bill makes schools and healthcare providers out to as they have an agenda to convert the cisgender population to queer/transgender people.

I believe if the authors of the bill would have reached out to the LGBTQAI community and asked parents in this community how they navigated schools and received care from health providers, the authors would have seen recognized that there is no need for a bill such as this.

I encourage you to vote DO NOT PASS.

Respectfully,  
Kristie Miller