



1 SB 2260

2 Testimony in Opposition

3 Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. I am here
4 representing the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders representing school
5 leaders across North Dakota. I come to you in opposition to SB 2260.

6 We believe parents are a vital piece of the educational puzzle. School districts should
7 reach out to parents and get their valuable input. Some of the components of this bill
8 are outlined already in some school board policies. Schools are already subject to open
9 records and open meetings. There are some components outlined in this bill are a huge
10 concern and will be difficult if not impossible to do – and will drive even more great
11 teachers out of the profession as well as make the thought of going into teaching
12 profession even less appealing. It also has components that generate an enormous safety
13 risk to students and teachers and puts at risk the precious commodities we are charged
14 with protecting – our students.

15 Section 2 of this bill is most problematic.

16 There is a critical component to video usage in school that is not protected in this bill. I
17 must believe that law enforcement would object to this as well. Without video in other
18 appropriate places not protected in this bill in our schools such as busses, as leaders we'd
19 be greatly restricted from investigating when things might go awry. This puts both the
20 youth and the adults at risk. Videos are used to investigate bullying allegations,
21 misbehavior, drug use, vaping, theft, and any number of other issues on our busses. If



1 a couple parents opt out – the school would effectively be forced to shut their cameras
2 off.

3 The review of the curriculum requirements in SB 2260 for a class seven days before that
4 curriculum is taught will cause hardships for our schools. Most courses have a syllabus
5 that outlines the course content and expectations for the semester or year. To have all
6 detail of course expectations that may happen in April done in August more than likely
7 will not be accurate. Furthermore – even the lesson plan release 7 days in advance with
8 the opportunity to hold teachers legally liable if a parent chooses to bring suit is
9 unreasonable. There are “teachable” moments that occur often that are difficult to plan
10 – sometimes they happen on the fly in the classroom and the great teachers take
11 advantage of this – you are asking the best of the best to stop being the best. Teachers
12 often adjust their curriculum and lessons throughout the year. They should be able to
13 do so freely as long as it is in conjunction with the course content standards. To have to
14 electronically publish all lesson plans and each piece of what they do electronically at
15 least 7 days in advance and allow for parents to opt students out of any lesson will create
16 a quagmire of instruction that will make operating a classroom tremendously more
17 difficult. Furthermore, an electronic publication of this magnitude would require each
18 district to purchase and implement a quality LMS (learning management system) which
19 is an unfunded mandate for many districts who have yet to be able to afford such a
20 system. Not to mention the professional development that each teacher would need to
21 undergo to publish all their materials. This will take a tremendous amount of time that
22 would need to be compensated for as well.



1 This would also restrict teachers from individualizing and providing personalized or
2 differentiated instruction if students struggle as if they adjust their plans based on the
3 needs of students, they would be out of compliance with the law and according to this
4 bill could be held legally accountable and be taken to court. Every educator I know
5 welcomes conversations with parents about the lessons being taught in school, but this
6 bill today presents a plan to drop a crushing amount of extra paperwork on already
7 exhausted teachers without a plan for how it would work, how parents would use the
8 information, or even if it is necessary. The number of copycat bills regarding education
9 that aren't addressing an issue in our state, but seemingly we need to have them since
10 they were introduced elsewhere is making clutter of our ND Century Code. When
11 mandating more work for every teacher in the state, the details matter. It hurts teachers.
12 It demoralizes a group of trusted professionals, and it feels like a 'gotcha' to all teachers
13 in our state putting them in immediate risk of legal issues. I'd ask that each of you call
14 each and every one of your teachers in your school districts back home...your teachers
15 in Minot, Harvey, Grafton, Hillsboro, Rolette, Fargo, Berthold, Devils Lake, Mandan,
16 Valley City, & Bismarck – people that you go to church with, shop with, went to school
17 with and might even be friend or family of yours, some of them might have been your
18 teachers – maybe your favorite teacher or coach...please call them and tell them that you
19 do not trust them. I have a hunch you couldn't do that. You know your teachers and
20 you trust them. Your kids probably love their teachers. I'm betting that would be an
21 uncomfortable conversation.

22 Please honor them with a do not pass on this bill.