



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2260

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Good morning, Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am representing North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in favor of Senate Bill 2260 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

The family is the fundamental building block of society, and parents are the primary stakeholders in a child’s wellbeing. They should always know what is going on in their child’s life so that they may parent the child in the most appropriate manner with regard to their unique characteristics and environment.

It is a parent’s responsibility to be involved in their children’s lives. Without this bill, hinderances to this have already occurred in North Dakota with regard to Section 1, subsection 6 (line 6 on page 3). Grand Forks Public Schools administrative regulation, in 2021, issued procedures stating that “school staff shall not disclose any information that may reveal a student’s transgender status to others, including parents or guardians – unless legally required to do so or the student has authorized such disclosure.”<sup>1</sup>

A parent ought to know what is being taught to their child in the school system as well. It is a parental responsibility to take part in their child’s education. They should know about and have the choice of whether or not to subject their children to controversial topics that may be presented in the classroom. With the arrival of COVID, many parents needed to be more directly be involved with their children’s classroom materials, and they were shocked at what they found. It should not take a pandemic to ensure parents know what their children are learning.

Section 3 of the bill relates to consent of a parent when it comes to medical procedures. Consent for medical procedures is best left in the hands of the individuals who know and care about a child best: the parents.

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<sup>1</sup><https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ewmtwcpuhuQWPe53v8HEgMMfCe8WGmIJ/view>

This bill supports that parents are the final arbiters in their child's education, medical treatment, mental health treatment, moral and religious training, and general upbringing. This is entirely consistent with biblical mandates, our organization's values, and those of thousands of our constituents across North Dakota. Because of these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2260.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'd be happy to answer any questions.