



NDSBA
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SB 2356
Senate Education | January 30, 2023
Testimony of Alexis Baxley

Good morning, Chairman Elkin, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Alexis Baxley, and I serve as the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents the elected school boards of all 170 public school districts and several special education units in North Dakota.

NDSBA opposes SB 2356. While we do not take issue with the intent of the bill, we believe there are too many safety-relative issues with bill as is to support. Extracurricular activities are a positive complement to a student's educational experience. Support from parents adds to that benefit.

However, school districts and other private entities must retain the ability to keep its students, staff, and other activity attendees safe in rare situations where other parents might create a risk. Some examples of these situations could include parents who are registered sex offenders, domestic and custody cases that could require protective orders, parents who have otherwise been banned from district property for harassing, threatening, or disruptive behaviors, and situations where referees and event officials may remove a parent from a game or activity due to bad behavior.

These types of incidents are rare, but do happen. Without the ability to prohibit parents who fall into one of the aforementioned situations from attending events and activities, a safety risk is created. Please consider either amending the bill to address these types of situations or give it a do-not-pass recommendation. Thank you.