

I, Matthew Mullins, as a North Dakota resident hereby state my opposition towards Senate Bill 2188 (SB 2188). My reasoning is as follows:

Parents should not be given the capacity to interfere with the development of a child's basic comprehension of the society that they will be joining. There is no circumstance in which this will produce a positive outcome for the child in question, especially when weighed against the potential negatives that may instead be produced should the child be sheltered from a proper and full social education, of which sexual education is a part.

Not only have studies shown that countries with comprehensive and compulsory sexual education in schools have lower teen pregnancy rates ([https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(14\)00387-5/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(14)00387-5/fulltext)), but there have also been multiple articles published which display the effects of a lack of proper sexual education (Such as this article by Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-teens-pregnancy/spending-on-abstinence-only-education-not-tied-to-fewer-teen-births-idUSKCN1QM2A6> and this article by NPR: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/06/05/530922642/in-texas-abstinence-only-programs-may-contribute-to-teen-pregnancies>)

Educational institutes and the bodies that govern them are inherently more qualified by virtue of the training and education of those that compose them than the average parent to understand and make decisions on the most effective ways to impart fundamental knowledge both functional and social towards children.

If a parent believes that this is not the case then not only do they have the option of home schooling their child, but also the option of enrolling them in a private educational institute of their choice. Both of which give them the ability in either full or partial capacity to exercise the amendments intended to be added via this bill.

These exists as -alternatives- for the education of a child, not as models to choose favored aspects from and apply to public education.

To conclude; sex is not a matter of morality or religion where the public space is concerned. It is a basic aspect of Human life. To give any private citizen, parent or otherwise, the ability to dictate whether a child receives education on this aspect of life is to ensure that there will always be more children ill-prepared for life in modern society than there could have been.