

Dear Chair Larsen and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

My testimony is in a slight opposition to Senate Bill 2260. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass but only as it is. Several Points I am fully fine with and agree with, but It really feels like some key things need to be addressed still before this bill is safe enough to pass and not a get out of jail free card for abusers and potentially damaging to a child's future. First there is no way this should apply to anything outside Highschool (I know that's in the under 18 part but don't ditch that, keep that.) But onto an issue... if a student is suspected of abuse by the parent(s) the school has to first tell the parents they suspect them of beating or harming said child? That's basically how this seems to be worded. There is the clause about imminent harm or physical injury, but what if it is not immediately imminent enough for the school to feel confident enough to act? (Pardon the phrase but) Is the school damned if they do, damned if they don't?

Also There is sort of a standard of education to keep people and society moving forward and advancing. I agree parents should be in the know of what they are learning at school and be allowed to have SOME say but some things should not be an optional educational point. There are things in even our country's history that are uncomfortable to talk about, but we need to learn so we can grow and learn from it. Certain scientific truths that may oppose some texts in very old outdated books that are an absolute must for any scientific field. 'Personal beliefs' are not always aligned with Facts and that's just fact. Otherwise you end up with people who think the earth is flat and surrounded by an ice wall or such things that will get them scoffed at by the rest of the country whose education is not stunted by one parent's insistence that 2+2 equals 7 so they never learned proper math. Besides, I, as a taxpayer, am also helping pay for this education aren't I? So I would like for science to be Fact, History to be true, Math to still be hard but a noble pursuit, and literature to be enlightening with many books from many authors and many backgrounds.