

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 1456

Date of Hearing: 2/11/2025

Rev. Ellery Dykeman

1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW – Minot, ND 58701

As a Lutheran pastor here in Minot, I stand in opposition to HB 1456, requiring public school districts to be financially responsible for providing chaplains in schools.

As someone who has gone through extensive chaplaincy training to become a pastor, I am aware of the intense training and personal psychological work that goes into becoming a chaplain. I don't believe we have even remotely enough people who have done this work and could volunteer to do this professional level work in our schools. I fear we would have some people taking on this work with ulterior motives and religious agendas seeking to proselytize more than help.

Although I appreciate the desire to help students and provide trusting and safe adults to support them, it seems to me that our resources would be better spent in hiring more school counselors, who are trained and qualified to do this important work with our kids.

Again, I urge you to vote No on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rev. Ellery Dykeman

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