

Cami Jo Krueger
1031 W. Owens Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501

February 10, 2025

Dear Chairperson Pat Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1456, which proposes allowing chaplains to serve in public school districts. There are significant concerns about the implications of this bill for our public schools, our students, and the separation of church and state.

Public schools are a place where students of all backgrounds—regardless of their faith, beliefs, or lack thereof—should feel included and supported. Introducing chaplains into public schools risks undermining the inclusive environment we strive to maintain, as chaplains are inherently tied to specific religious perspectives. While the role of faith leaders is vital in their respective communities, public schools are not the appropriate venue for such roles.

Additionally, HB 1456 raises serious questions about fairness and equity in public education. Rather than diverting attention and resources toward creating chaplain positions, we should be focusing on recruiting and retaining qualified professionals who are trained to meet the diverse and secular needs of our student population.

Moreover, allowing chaplains in public schools risks blurring the line between church and state, a cornerstone of our Constitution. Public education is funded by taxpayers of all backgrounds, and it is critical that our schools remain neutral and inclusive spaces that respect the beliefs and rights of every family. Introducing chaplains into this setting could lead to conflicts, alienation, and legal challenges.

As a parent, my priority is ensuring that schools provide a supportive, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students. This can be achieved by investing in trained, certified school counselors, social workers, and educators who are equipped to address the academic, emotional, and social needs of children in a manner that respects the diversity of our communities.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against HB 1456. Instead, let us focus on solutions that strengthen our schools and serve the needs of all students while upholding the principles of fairness, inclusivity, and constitutional integrity.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Cami Jo Krueger
Cjow04@gmail.com