

Rhonda Weigelt
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SRCTC: North Sargent School
16 1st St. SW
Gwinner, ND 58040

February 10, 2025

House Education Committee
Pat D. Heinert

Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 1490

Dear Mr. Pat Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1490, which would enact a new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to required psychological evaluations for school counselors. I oppose this bill because it unfairly singles out school counselors and raises ethical concerns regarding student confidentiality.

Requiring psychological evaluations exclusively for school counselors creates an inequitable standard that does not apply to other educators or school personnel. Additionally, this bill poses ethical concerns by potentially compromising the confidentiality and trust that students place in their counselors. The counseling relationship relies on a foundation of trust, and any legislation that threatens confidentiality could deter students from seeking the support they need.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at rjweigelt@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Weigelt