

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

February 10, 2025

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

My name is Cami Jo Krueger, and I am coming to you as a concerned parent of a school-aged child in North Dakota. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1490, which, in its current form, places an undue burden on schools that are already financially and operationally stretched. They are faced with difficult choices every day just to provide basic education and mental health services.

One of my primary concerns is how this bill fails to align with practical and sustainable standards already present in other professions. For example, in the realm of public safety, psychological evaluations for public safety professions are typically required only once at pre-employment, unless a specific need arises for a reevaluation. However, HB 1490 appears to create ongoing mandates for school counselors instead of providing valuable resources that could better the school environment for students and staff.

As a parent, I know how important the roles of administrators, teachers, and school counselors are for the well-being and academic success of our children. Adding new mandates without addressing these staffing shortages will stretch already overworked professionals even thinner and undermine the support our children desperately need. I would recommend asking the schools where funds could be utilized such as needed resources to assist in the overall health and wellness of the students. Put that funding towards a positive purpose such as addressing the challenges of hiring and retaining staff and ensure equity across all school districts.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB 1490 and instead prioritize legislation that invests in our schools and supports our children and educators in meaningful ways. Our kids deserve policies that help, not hinder, their opportunities for success. Our school counselors deserve the respect for their services in which they provide to the students, schools, and communittee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cami Jo Krueger
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