

Chairman Heinart and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leslie Bieber. I am the Superintendent of Alexander School District in Alexander, ND. I am here in opposition of SB2104.

As written, this bill raises concerns about the separation of powers, overreach, and unintended consequences that could negatively impact school districts.

Violation of Separation of Powers:

- The State Superintendent is an executive role with duties centered on educational leadership, not a judicial position. Assigning investigatory and punitive powers to this office blends the roles of the executive and judicial branches that undermines the principle of checks and balances.
- **Redundancy in Legal Framework:**
 - Districts are required to maintain clear policies and procedures for complaints concerning personnel, compliance with laws, and other issues. These processes ensure transparency and accountability at the local level. This established framework allows constituents to voice concerns and seek resolution through proper channels at the local level.
 - If a constituent or even someone from the office of the state superintendent feels a district is not complying with state law they have the option to file a complaint with the **Attorney General**. This existing process provides a neutral, judicial based approach to addressing such concerns.
 - Governor Armstrong stated in his State of the State Address that he is committed to cleaning up inefficiencies and

redundancies in our state system. Unfortunately, this bill, adds to those redundancies rather than addressing them.

- **Unrealistic Administrative Burden**

- As a school superintendent in a small town, I navigate social dynamics involving families, close-knit relationships, and long-standing generational friendships. Decisions related to personnel or discipline, such as hiring, firing, or expulsions, can ripple through communities. This bill risks amplifying tensions by creating an additional avenue for grievances, exacerbating local disputes rather than resolving them locally.

I ask the committee to oppose SB2104. Thank you for your time and consideration.