

1 North Dakota School Study Council Testimony in Opposition SB 2104 –
2 School District Compliance

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4 Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee,

5 I am writing to express my opposition to SB 2104, School District
6 Compliance. While we firmly believe that all schools should adhere to all
7 laws, we have significant concerns about certain provisions in the bill that
8 may lead to unintended consequences.

9 First, the bill allows individuals to file a complaint against a school without
10 first exhausting the proper chain of command. It is essential to ensure that
11 all local avenues for resolution are pursued before escalating concerns to
12 higher authorities. Implementing such a requirement would promote
13 fairness and efficiency in handling complaints.

14 Second, the bill currently states that an appeal of the state superintendent's
15 decision would be made to the state superintendent. This creates a clear
16 conflict of interest, as the same individual would be responsible for
17 reviewing their own decision. To ensure impartiality and due process, the
18 appeal process should be handled by an independent entity or a separate
19 official.

20 Finally, we oppose the provision that ties penalties to school resources.
21 Just as fines for speeding remain consistent regardless of a driver's
22 financial status, penalties for non-compliance should be uniform and not
23 dependent on the financial standing of a particular school district.
24 Establishing consistent and equitable penalties ensures fairness and
25 accountability across all schools.

26 For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2104. Thank you
27 for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions or
28 provide additional information as needed.

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30 Dr. Paul Stremick