



Great Public Schools

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Testimony Before the House Education Committee
SB 2105
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, for the record I am Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I rise today to urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation for SB 2105. Members of the Committee, I am certain that all of us here today agree that student privacy is a matter that must be taken very seriously. The federal government has passed legislation to ensure that the rights of students and their records are protected. You can learn more about these protections here: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/training/what-protection-pupil-rights-amendment>.

SB 2105, while well intentioned, creates unintended consequences which may cause school districts unnecessary headaches as they strive to gather information that helps them to recognize specific trends that may negatively impact the students in their charge. As you know, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey has been administered biennially since 1991. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey has proven to be a valuable tool in helping the public and school administrators recognize specific trends regarding drug and alcohol use among our young people, as well as gathering statistics on smoking, vaping, bullying and other self-destructive behaviors. Over the years, the YRBS has informed school leaders of the nature of physical and mental health challenges experienced by their students. This knowledge has allowed them to deploy services and strategies to their student populations to help mitigate the effects of the challenges they identified. These surveys are completely anonymous, and parents have the right to opt their students out of the YRBS and other surveys administered by schools. By mandating that students opt in to the YRBS, SB 2105 would cause lower rates of participation and cause imprecise data to be collected, thus hindering a school district's efforts to provide adequate resources to address concerns.

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and share our concerns about SB 2105. I will conclude my testimony by urging you to give SB 2105 a ***do not pass*** recommendation.

