

## **SB2105**

Members of the committee. My name is Todd Beard. I am the Senator from District 23 serving the Williston and Trenton area.

I bring to you SB2105.

Part 1 of the bill defines a survey to mean a written document to obtain information about a student from a student. This means any survey asking explicit personal information from a student including behavioral health questions. That definition excludes surveys completed for educational purposes or if a student is surveyed because they have chosen to sign up and join a group for extracurricular activities.

Part 2 of the bill excludes 3<sup>rd</sup> parties from coming into a school to survey students other than the department of public instruction. Parents are the ones who should decide if their children should participate in a survey. No 3<sup>rd</sup> party has a right to their information.

Part 3 of the bill determines the parent or guardian approval before a survey can be administered.

This bill is meant to ensure parents have the opportunity to review a survey their child is asked to fill out. After the parent reviews the survey, they must authorize in writing allowing the child to take the survey before it can be administered. Some reasons this is important are:

1. The government is not entitled to information requested on surveys like the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. No student should be subjected to personal private information questions without the knowledge and consent of the parents.

2. If the parent or guardian reviews the survey to be given to the child, this could open dialogue that might not have otherwise happened. This could be of benefit to their family.

The opposition to this bill has stated that they must have this information from the students. So, does that mean they don't want the parents/guardians to know what the children are being asked? That would seem to be the case since the information packet sent to the school declares a goal of 95-100% participation.

The opposition also declares it's a voluntary survey and parents or students may "Opt-Out". That seems to contradict the goal for participation. Also, it contradicts almost every other activity in the school system.

Opt-in to sign up for school

Opt-in for classes to take

Opt-in for extracurricular activities

Opt-in for field trips

Why is it such a problem for a parent to review the survey and opt-in the child for the survey.

Lastly, this bill does not stop the survey from being conducted. It just declares the parent/guardian must sign-off for the child to take it.

Thank you for your consideration and ask for a DO PASS recommendation on SB2105. I stand for any questions.