

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2099
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 15, 2025

By: Robin Lang, Assistant Director of Educational Improvement and Support

701-328-2265

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robin Lang, and I am an Assistant Director in the Office of Educational Improvement and Support with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in opposition of Senate Bill 2099, as it is currently written.

While the Department of Public Instruction supports the concept of raising awareness and providing education regarding cardiac symptoms and warning signs for student athletes and coaches, we do not believe that the Department of Public Instruction is the appropriate agency to lead this health initiative.

The Department of Public Instruction is not equipped with the expertise in cardiac arrest prevention or health related matters. Currently, for any school health information, the Department of Health and Human Services has health content experts who lead school health initiatives and collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction, as necessary, to ensure the most effective and accurate information is developed and disseminated to our schools.

This collaborative approach ensures the information provided reflects the most current medical standards and practices while allowing the Department of Public Instruction to continue its focus on the primary responsibilities in education.

We would respectfully recommend that this responsibility be assigned to the Department of Health and Human Services, the agency best positioned to consult with health professionals and experts in cardiac care and prevention. The Department of Public Instruction would remain a collaborative partner in this process and would support the dissemination of any developed information and materials to our schools through our various communication channels as directed or requested by the Department of Health and Human Services. I have included an attachment that provides examples of health-related information and resources that are currently provided by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction.

Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee, that concludes my prepared testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you may have.