

Senate Education Committee
Jan 20th, 2025 SB 2105
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Beard and the members of the Senate Education Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on SB 2105.

I believe the bill sponsor, Chairman Beard, may not realize that in 2024 we moved our data management systems for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction to our Health and Human Services.

“The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national system of surveys used to monitor behaviors in school age children that can lead to poor health outcomes. North Dakota has conducted the YRBS in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 1995. On odd-numbered years, ND students in grades 7-8 and 9-12 are administered a voluntary, anonymous survey questionnaire. Schools, teachers, public health professionals, community leaders, and policymakers in North Dakota use YRBS data for decision making, evaluation, and planning” ([NDHHS](#))

As this bill is written, I don’t believe we are able to continue running this critical survey that is used by professionals, policy makers, and researchers like myself across the state. It would also be difficult to assess how many various programs, organizations, or efforts in North Dakota that depend on third party school surveys for their grants or grant assessment.

I would also defer to [Dr. Aimee Copas’s Testimony](#) to the points of administrative burden and reflecting on the idea that the system is not broken and does not need fixing. At the very least, as this bill is considered, please clarify that the NDHHS is also allowed survey privileges to conduct the YRBS or expand it to any state department rather than strictly the NDDPI.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler