

# Senate Education Committee

## Senate Bill 2330

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

February 5, 2025

Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Bismarck.

I don't always agree with the State Board of Higher Education, but when I do, I prefer to do it for very good reasons.

I think Senate Bill 2330 is a road paved with good intentions.

This bill micromanages freshman orientation. Two hours may sound reasonable, but have you been in a classroom with a lecture that goes on for two hours? Students get bored and their eyes wander.

Believe me – if I tried to talk about anything in front of a legislative committee for two hours, the chair would cut me off – for good reason.

If the Legislature succeeds at mandating these two hours, another legislative session will probably mandate two hours for something else. And eventually, there wouldn't be enough time during orientation to tell freshmen anything else. It's like the story of the camel in the tent.

This bill forces both college freshmen and school teachers at every grade level to put in two hours of highly intense emotional labor.

And – it's an unfunded mandate. It is well known that local governments and state institutions detest unfunded mandates.

Before school teachers and college freshmen get forced to watch this two hour lecture about human trafficking, let's make sure every state legislator gets forced to watch this lecture first. I would venture to guess that, mathematically speaking, more state legislators would be in better position to pay for sex than college students would – and hence, be in a better position to use this information to report sex trafficking.

I regard stopping sex trafficking to be very important. I just don't think this legislation would be an effective way to accomplish this. It would be more effective to create an incentive structure to ensure that people can report human trafficking to the police while not outing themselves as professional criminals and putting themselves in danger of arrest.

I have many ideas on what I think *would* work to stop sex trafficking. If you would like to hear some constructive ideas on how to make that happen, I think you know where to find me.

Please provide Senate Bill 2330 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

I am open for questions.