

Introductory Speech for Senate Bill No. 2330
Senate education committee
Date

Good morning, Chairman Beard and members of the Education committee, I am Senator Keith Boehm from District 33 .

Today, I have the privilege of introducing Senate Bill No. 2330, a forward-thinking piece of legislation aimed at addressing one of the most pervasive and devastating issues of our time—human trafficking and exploitation.

This bill seeks to ensure that both students and faculty in North Dakota’s public schools and institutions of higher education are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to identify, prevent, and combat human trafficking and exploitation. By mandating annual, evidence-based education programs, this legislation focuses on building awareness, fostering prevention, and empowering communities to take actionable steps.

The highlights of this bill include:

1. **Comprehensive Education Requirements:** Programs will provide essential information on the nature of human trafficking, its tactics, and its impact. This includes recognizing victim profiling, understanding grooming techniques, and addressing the role of online activities and pornography in perpetuating exploitation. All within the boundaries of age-appropriate material.
2. **Community Engagement:** In addition to educating students from kindergarten through higher education, the bill offers resources for parents and guardians to strengthen the protective circle around our children.
3. **Accountability and Effectiveness:** Institutions will be required to report on the implementation and outcomes of these programs, ensuring they are impactful and addressing real-world concerns.
4. **Collaboration:** The bill emphasizes culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and evidence-based practices, with the flexibility to partner with nonprofit organizations specializing in this critical area.

This bill is not just about education; it’s about safeguarding lives. Human trafficking affects every community, and the demand for exploitation does not recognize state boundaries. By acting now, we can better protect our young people and those who might otherwise fall victim to these heinous crimes. I have heard the comments that ask the question "you mean that occurs in North Dakota" and the answer is yes. There will be testimony to this question.

Finally, the appropriation of 150000 in an amendment demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the success of these programs. It is a modest yet vital investment in the safety and future of our state’s residents.

I urge this committee to consider the profound impact this legislation could have on countless lives across North Dakota. Together, we have an opportunity to lead the way in preventing human trafficking and exploitation through education and awareness. I ask that the committee will give this bill a do pass recommendation. I stand for questions

- 1 (7) Information regarding:
2 (a) Force, fraud, and coercion;
3 (b) Grooming;
4 (c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;
5 (d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;
6 (e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and
7 (f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which
8 industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and
9 (8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,
10 including reporting information to the proper authorities.

11 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**
12 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

13 **EDUCATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
14 | not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$48,000~~\$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be
15 necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human
16 trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning
17 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.