

February 10, 2025

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Elizabeth Freedman Fowler. I am an Assistant Professor of Biological and Earth Sciences at Dickinson State University. I write today as an independent individual; my views are not necessarily those of my employer.

I have taught introductory biology to over 100 non-science majors per year: education majors, nursing majors, agriculture majors, business majors. In my 8 years at Dickinson State University, I have never had a single student complain about evolution, and not a single student ever asked about Intelligent Design. At the end of the semester of biology, I would ask them what their favorite topic was from the whole course. Every year, the most common favorite topic was evolution. Students said that they found the evolution unit interesting because they had never been taught it properly before, and evolution made so much sense.

Without learning about evolution, nursing students have difficulty explaining the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Without evolution, agriculture students struggle to explain why weeds become resistant to herbicides. Evolution has real world economic impacts.

North Dakota students are already at a disadvantage because they have not been taught evolution properly in science class. Please do not harm our next generation by introducing non-science into their science courses.

Vote "do not pass" on SB 2355.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Freedman Fowler

Dickinson, ND 58601