

Opposition to Senate Bill 2355

2/10/2025

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

As a parent, I want my child to have the best possible education—one grounded in facts, critical thinking, and the pursuit of knowledge. Senate Bill 2355, which would require teaching "intelligent design" as a viable scientific theory, does not align with these values. While I respect the role of faith in the *private* lives of our citizens, this bill undermines science education, misleads our children, and risks turning our classrooms into battlegrounds over ideology rather than places of learning.

Science is about asking questions, testing hypotheses, and building knowledge based on evidence. **Intelligent design fails every test of scientific rigor.** It has no empirical support and cannot be tested or falsified, which is why organizations like the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science reject it as science.

Our teachers already work tirelessly to provide a quality education. Forcing them to teach concepts they know are not scientifically valid adds unnecessary stress and undermines their professional integrity. Developing materials and training teachers to teach intelligent design is a waste of time and money that could be better spent on proven educational tools and programs.

Science is about discovery, wonder, and unlocking the mysteries of the universe. Evolution, genetics, astronomy—these are fascinating fields that inspire curiosity and hope. Our kids deserve to learn real science that challenges them to think big, ask questions, and explore the world around them. They don't need unscientific concepts dressed up as theories.

As a parent, I want my child's education to prepare them for the future, not confuse them with pseudoscience. Senate Bill 2355 misleads our children, undermines science, and risks damaging North Dakota's reputation. I urge the Committee to reject this bill and keep our classrooms focused on what matters: truth, knowledge, and the power of learning.

Sincerely,

Kara L. Geiger
Mandan