

**Written Testimony in opposition to**  
**SB2355**

Date of Hearing 2/12/2020, 10:00 am

Dr. Heidi Super  
1 Souris Ct.  
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Committee Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Heidi Super. I am a newly retired, emeritus professor of Biology at Minot State University. My expertise is in genetics and cancer research, but I am broadly trained in science and the scientific method. Bill SB2355 mandates evolution by intelligent design (ID) be taught in ND classrooms. ID is a form of creationism, a God-based explanation for the origin of life and the evolution of many life forms. ID offers no testable hypothesis and its supporters provide no evidence for its existence, and is therefore not science.

However, the hypothesis that the diversity of life forms on earth is the result of natural selection, is unequivocally supported by hundreds of unique testing methods, including fossil examination and direct DNA analysis. There is already overwhelming of evidence supporting a scientific explanation for biodiversity--so much so that evolution by natural selection is now considered a theory--not a hypothesis. In science a theory is akin to a law--i.e. the Theory of Gravity.

Teaching ID would bring religion into public school classrooms. Numerous court cases, including Kitzmiller vs. Dover (PA) Area School District have ruled that ID is not science and should not be taught as an alternative to evidence-based (scientifically derived) explanations for evolution. Let's follow suit, and limit discussion of ID to religious settings where it is not considered science. Please vote--do not pass on SB2355.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

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