

**I am writing as a concerned citizen in strong opposition to Senate Bill SB 2355, which seeks to include intelligent design in the science content standards for North Dakota's elementary and secondary students. This bill is unconstitutional, unscientific, and an attempt to introduce religious beliefs into public education.**

**Intelligent design is not science—it is a religious concept. The scientific community, including organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has repeatedly affirmed that evolution is the only scientifically supported explanation for the diversity of life on Earth. Intelligent design, on the other hand, is a faith-based idea that suggests life was created by a divine being. Teaching it in public schools violates the separation of church and state as outlined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.**

**Courts have consistently ruled against teaching intelligent design in public schools. The *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* case in 2005 established that intelligent design is not science but a repackaged form of creationism, making it unconstitutional to include in public school curricula. Passing SB 2355 would invite costly legal battles, burdening North Dakota taxpayers with unnecessary litigation.**

**Furthermore, introducing religious ideology into science education undermines students' ability to compete in higher education and the workforce. Science should be taught based on empirical evidence, peer-reviewed research, and the scientific method—not on religious beliefs. Students deserve a strong, fact-based science education that prepares them for careers in medicine, engineering, technology, and other STEM fields.**

**Public schools must remain neutral in matters of religion, respecting the diverse beliefs of all North Dakotans. If parents wish for their children to learn religious perspectives on creation, they are free to do so in churches, private schools, or at home—not in public science classrooms.**

**For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB 2355. Science education should be based on facts, not faith. This bill is unconstitutional, harmful to students, and a step backward for North Dakota's education system.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**