

**Do Pass Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on SB2355
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe SB2355 is excellent legislation. This legislation mandates that schools present Intelligent Design as an additional theory of the origin of life. Currently, abiogenesis is the sole scientific theory taught as to the origin of life, and beyond the first page of the chapter in which it is initially discussed, is presented as fact.

Particularly troubling is that abiogenesis is a form of the scientific theory of spontaneous generation, which was disproven by Louis Pasteur and John Tyndall in the 19th century. Spontaneous generation is the assembly of living forms from non-living material. You will remember prior to Pasteur and Tyndall, science believed that flies could just spontaneously generate from meat isolated in a jar. Abiogenesis is really no different.

Intelligent Design is a competing theory to abiogenesis in which Intelligent Design provides a reasonable explanation for the origin of life, and how the biological intricacies are ordered. The confirmation bias for abiogenesis is very strong; possibly due to the prevailing scientists own typically strong beliefs against the notion of an Intelligent Designer. Secular beliefs are unfortunately substantially holding back scientific understandings and continue this single path theory of abiogenesis. We have not progressed beyond the jar of meat with flies. I think we can do better than that.

Despite the previously stated problems with abiogenesis, SB2355 does not remove it as a theory. SB2355 mandates the more reasonable scientific theory of Intelligent Design be taught alongside whatever current theories exist on the origin of life. The accusation of confirmation bias therefore cannot be levied against Intelligent Design. It has to compete on its own merits.

SB2355 is excellent legislation. Please give SB2355 a Do Pass.

Thank you,

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