

January 23, 2025

Chairwoman Larson and members of Judiciary,

I am writing on behalf of myself as an individual citizen of North Dakota and asking that you oppose SB 2244.

I completely support increased parental involvement in their children's education. I am frustrated beyond belief when I see parents who are not involved in their child's education, and I am not alone in this – teachers also want to see parents become more involved.

So why do I oppose this bill? Because it's unnecessary, unreasonable and impossible to enforce and puts additional strain and stress on our already burdened school systems. Parents already have the right to be involved in their children's schooling and we have been given plenty of tools to do this. However, we do not have the right to demand course information or teacher training materials with three days' notice.

Classroom education is simply not always that structured. Plans can be easily taken off track by inquisitive students or delayed by lack of understanding. This bill demonstrates a major problem with politics and education: many politicians do not understand what it's like to be in a classroom today. Politicians seem to think teachers are brainwashing students and coercing them to change their names and gender when in all actuality teachers are just trying to teach our kids while working 10+ hour days and buying their own supplies.

I have dozens of friends who are teachers, and I consistently hear their voice concern about how parents “don't care” about what their kids do in school. I also hear them worry about the kids who aren't succeeding and who don't seem to be taken care of outside of school. I listen to my friends talk about the challenges of crowded schools and poor infrastructure. I watch as these dedicated educators spend their “non-work” hours preparing school projects and volunteering at school activities.

Instead of supporting bills like SB 2244 I encourage you to do the following: 1) Spend a day in a classroom at your local school and 2) Develop other legislation that helps fund education, infrastructure, counseling, special education, salaries, and benefits. Parents already have the ability to be involved in a child's education, they don't need a law to do this they simply need to take the initiative and support their children and the teachers who care for them thousands of hours each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anderson

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