

Thank you, Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to send in my testimony. My name is Karen Krenz, I am from District 1 in Williston and a mother of three boys. I was a teacher and counselor for 23 years in ND. I am asking that you render a DO PASS for SB 2244.

Our role as parents is to guide, protect, and care for our children until they turn 18 and beyond. It is my right as a parent to know if my children are being surveyed, having to conform to things that are not in line with my family values, and to be involved in the choices being made for my children at school. It is important that the state of North Dakota respects the right and responsibility of parents to raise, care for their children and have a voice in their education. Activist educators and overreaching governments play no role in our schools. We want community schools, not government schools!

If a child is expressing signs of mental illness. Why would you not want a parent to know? If a child is requesting to use a different bathroom or locker room. Why would not want a parent to know? If a child is wanting to use a different pronoun or name. Why would not want a parent to know this? Why would you actively hide a course curriculum, the books in the library and the name of a speaker coming in to the classroom. Again, parents have the fundamental right to the upbringing of their children.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

Karen Krenz