

HB 1356

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee.

For the record my name is Rep. Lisa Meier of District 32 in Bismarck.

House Bill 1356 would allow an adult of a youth patriotic society once in the fall of the year with notification to the principal of a school, to gain permission of time and place to speak to students for a few minutes about involvement in their organization.

The only organization that would apply to this section in code in the bill, is the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts in North Dakota.

There is a need for more patriotism and more civics.

Article 8, Section 1, of our North Dakota Constitution calls for the establishment of a high degree of patriotism for our students.

Scouting teaches:

- Knowledge of how our system of government works.
- The difference between state, federal and local government.
- The proper roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- The rights and duties of citizens.

Unfortunately, schools in North Dakota are denying Scouting the opportunity to make these brief presentations to engage our youth. We as a State now pay for 60% to 70% of education costs for public education to Districts in the state.

The proposed bill parallels, but, is even more narrow than a bill that was adopted by the 2019 South Dakota Legislature. Their bill has worked very well for them.

I've been involved in Scouting for twenty some years now and have personally seen so many positive outcomes in our youth.

This bill will help promote patriotism and civic education for our youth.

As Benjamin Franklin said. "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Thank you!