

House Education Committee
March 12th, 2025 SB 2244
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Heinert and the members of the House Education Committee,

I wrote the testimony below when this was brought up in the Senate. I was dismayed to see this bill has made it through that chamber. I am dismayed that our lawmakers are so obsessed over parental rights they do not ask about nor concern themselves with child abuse. It is impossible to empower parents, without also empowering parents to abuse their children to the proportional extent in which rights are given.

And while I know the vast majority of our parents are truly kind and loving, amazing champions for their kids, these issues **must** be balanced against the proportional abuse possible by the tools you are putting in parents hands. Is this bill necessary right now? Do parents need the additional powers we are seeking to give them? Regardless of where this bill goes, **please** address this question.

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on SB 2244, because:

1. Parents already enjoy [fundamental parental rights](#)
2. This bill destabilizes our public institutes ability to operate, especially in regard to child protection, regardless of the supposed exceptions written within this bill.
3. These additional parental rights could conflict with youth’s [unalienable right](#) to enjoy life and liberty or pursue and obtain safety and happiness.
4. [State data](#) already reflects bad parents do exist in our state.

In 2023, an especially powerful testimony around virtually the same bill struck my eye:

Samantha Field’s from the Coalition for Responsible Home Education spoke this session about not being given a basic education or progressing past the eighth grade reading level because of her parents and the fundamental rights of youth were virtually meaningless. Child Protective Services spoke about the careful balance of their jobs and how bills like this put youth into jeopardy. Our schools have talked about the authority this gives parents as making school virtually impossible, with each teacher now needing to respond to sixty new bosses in each classroom.

During 2023’s bill, [SB 2260](#), hundreds of testimony against this bill came from our organizations that protect kids. I’m not sure what this version of the bill is fixing or why we need to try it again. To save everyone hours of time, please vote “Do Not Pass.”

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.
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