

Testimony in opposition to SB 2355
Joel Hektner, Fargo, ND
February 11, 2025

I write to express my strong opposition to SB 2355. As a Christian, I believe the creation of all life occurred through the action of an intelligent being, God, and I teach my children that, but that does not mean that I want that idea taught in school as a scientific theory. As an educator and researcher, I use and teach the scientific method. Scientific ways of knowing are different from religious and faith-based ways of knowing, and the two are strongest when kept separate. It will not strengthen students' belief or understanding to try to fit the idea of intelligent design into a scientific theory; it will only confuse students as to what a scientific theory actually is. At a time when educating our children in STEM is more important than ever, we can't afford to cause them to fall behind their peers in other states and around the world because we felt the need to promote unscientific ideas as scientific theories.