

2025 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2330

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2330
2/5/2025

Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Beard called the meeting to order.

Discussion Topics:

- Comprehension education requirements
- Resources for parents and guardians
- Proposed amendment

9:00 a.m. Senator Boehm, District 33, introduced the bill and submitted testimony in favor #35321 and #35322.

9:08 a.m. Lisa Hanson, Founder The Next Step ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #34636.

9:16 a.m. Lowell Hochhalter, Co-Founder/CEO The Lifeguard Group, testified in favor and submitted testimony #35115.

9:28 a.m. Cody Schuler, America Civil Liberties Union, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #35162.

9:34 a.m. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic/Student Affairs ND University System, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #35151.

9:44 a.m. Dr. Aimee Copas, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified neutral and submitted testimony #35164.

Additional written testimony:

Danielle John, Expert Survivor, submitted testimony in favor #34684.

Tami Brown Rodriques, Jaco Booyens Ministries, submitted testimony in favor #34719.

Ilonka Deaton, Jaco Booyens Ministries, submitted testimony in favor #34729.

Jaco Booyens, family member of survivor Jaco Booyens Ministries, submitted testimony #34768.

David Tamisiea, Executive Director ND Catholic Conference, submitted testimony in favor #34893.

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, submitted testimony in favor #35121.

Amy De Kok, Executive Director ND School Boards Association, submitted testimony in opposition #35177.

Andrew Varvel, citizen, submitted testimony in opposition #35152 and #35153.

Karen Krenz, citizen, submitted testimony in favor #34620.

Kimberly Hurst, citizen, submitted neutral testimony #35128.

9:53 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

I am in support of a DO PASS on 2330

In 2020, 69% of the newly charged sex trafficking cases involve children, according to the latest statistics on child sex trafficking. We need to protect these vulnerable children by educating them on what signs to look for when dealing with manipulation and exploitation. I especially support section 2 where it states that parents and legal guardians will be offered workshops and materials to support the education of their child. This is a great opportunity for parents to discuss this growing issue with their children.

I believe curriculum selection must be carefully considered.

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

Karen Krenz



February 3, 2025

Testimony of Lisa Hanson, Founder of The Next Step ND

Senate Bill NO. 2330 an ACT concerning mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions.

Chairman Beard and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Lisa Hanson and I am the founder of The Next Step ND, which is a program under The Impact Foundation. I established this program in 2012 after hearing from a speaker about the horrors of human trafficking. The Next Step ND is a financial and relationship-building program for survivors of human trafficking who are getting established back into the community. In addition to supporting survivors, we also focus on prevention through awareness campaign and educational speaking events at churches, schools, homes, and other venues we are invited to share. Over the years we have helped hundreds of women, children and men through financial and emotional support. While God has truly blessed this organization, my hope is to one day dissolve this chapter because there will be no need for The Next Step ND and this bill could help do just that.

I wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 2330 and urge you to do the same. If passed, this bill has the potential to positively impact thousands of children and educational leaders across North Dakota by hindering trafficker's efforts, preventing potential victims from falling into the cycles of exploitation, and change and reshape the hearts of our children to avoid the dangers of pornography addiction.

This legislation is an important step in safeguarding our youth and fostering a culture of awareness and prevention in the darkness of human trafficking and therefore should be passed.

Thank you for your consideration in taking this next step that North Dakota's children so desperately need!

Sincerely,

Lisa Hanson

Founder of The Next Step ND

My name is Danielle John. I am an expert survivor of human trafficking. I have been involved in more ways than I can count with combating human trafficking across our state and our country. I decided 6 years ago to take a step back from speaking and focus on my own recovery and my family. However, when things like this come up, I take it upon myself to help educate and make a difference. When I was doing trainings and speaking engagements I often got asked what can we do to make a difference?? My answer was always the same. It starts with our youth today. We must raise our children to know what healthy relationships are. We need to have those hard conversations with our youth. We cannot shield them from the reality of the world we live in. Now obviously these conversations must be age appropriate. But if we start this communication when they are young, the hope is that if and when something comes up, they will feel comfortable to come to us. Since our youth are required to attend school until the age of 16, this bill gives us the opportunity to educate and make them aware of what human trafficking is and how it could affect them. We don't always know what is going on in someone's home or what their future holds, but the hope is that if there is a youth affected by this, the education that is provided by the school will give them the resources they need to recognize it. I look forward to speaking with you all and answering any questions that may arise.

Delivered by Tami Brown Rodriguez
Director of Policy, Jaco Booyens Ministries

Good morning, esteemed members of the committee,

I stand before you not just as the Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries, but as the aunt of a survivor. My niece was trafficked for 15 years—15 years of stolen innocence, of unimaginable pain, and of nights spent wondering if she would survive another day. Those years cannot be undone. Her smile, her childhood dreams, her sense of safety—snatched away by predators who thrived in the shadows of our collective silence and inaction.

Her story haunts me, not because it is extraordinary, but because it is heartbreakingly common. Thousands of children—precious sons and daughters—are preyed upon every single day. And for every one of them, there is a family like mine left to pick up the shattered pieces.

This bill is not just legislation—it is a lifeline. It is the chance to stop what happened to my niece from happening to another child. It is about giving students, parents, and educators the tools to fight back against traffickers who exploit vulnerabilities and manipulate through the faceless void of the internet. It is about ending the normalization of predatory behavior in our culture.

I have looked into the eyes of survivors, heard their trembling voices as they say, “If someone had told me what trafficking really was, I would have known I was a victim. I would have begged for help.” Those words stay with me. Because education isn’t just information—it is hope. It is survival. It is the difference between a child being enslaved and a child being saved.

We know what works. In North Dakota, SB 2330 ensures mandatory, comprehensive anti-trafficking education for every K-12 student and college freshman. It doesn’t just equip children; it empowers parents, trains faculty, and holds the system accountable. By contrast, Oklahoma’s HB 2396 made participation optional, and optional doesn’t protect children. Optional lets traffickers win.

The Supreme Court in the 1950s recognized that laws must evolve to meet new societal threats. Today, we face traffickers who don’t need to lurk in dark alleys—they invade through smartphones, social media, and online platforms. The battlefield has shifted, and our policies must catch up. We would never tolerate laws that leave children unprotected in the physical world. Why, then, would we allow loopholes that fail to guard them in the digital one?

This bill represents what my niece never had—a chance. A chance to know, to fight, to survive. Let us not waste another moment. The stakes are too high. The cost of inaction is etched in the faces of countless victims, and the price is paid in the stolen lives of our children. I urge you to act with courage. Let us not fail our children. Let us not fail their future.

Thank you,
Tami Brown Rodriguez
Family Member of a Survivor
Director of Policy & Licensing
Jaco Booyens Ministries
214-878-7825

Testimony of Ilonka Deaton Before the Judiciary Committee

Chairperson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Ilonka Deaton, and I am here not only as an expert advocate in human trafficking policy but as someone who survived six years of sex trafficking in the music industry. I was just a child when a trusted adult, someone I should have been able to rely on, exploited me and took control of my life. For six long years, I lived in silence, trapped in fear, believing there was no way out.

One of the most insidious factors in my story was the role that early exposure to pornography played—not just in how I was groomed, but in how my abuser justified my exploitation. I was introduced to things no child should ever see, let alone experience. This exposure rewired my sense of normal, blurred the lines between abuse and love, and kept me locked in a cycle of shame and silence. It cost me years—not just of my childhood but of my recovery. Even now, the financial burden of trauma therapy remains a cost I continue to carry, a burden that no survivor should have to bear alone.

But what haunts me most is this: if I had been given real education—age-appropriate, truth-centered education—about exploitation, consent, and where to turn for help, I might not have remained trapped for six years. If someone had come into my classroom and told me what trafficking looks like, what grooming sounds like, and that what was happening to me was not my fault, I might have found the courage to speak out sooner. Instead, I remained in the shadows, unseen, unheard, and unrescued.

This is why I stand before you today, pleading for change. We must ensure that children are not left in the dark as I was. We must fight to protect them from the exposure that primes them for victimization and equip them with the knowledge that can save their lives. And we must remove the barriers to healing for those who have already suffered, because no survivor should have to fight for the right to recover.

The choices we make today will determine how many more children remain trapped, and how many more survivors struggle alone. I urge you—choose to protect them. Choose to act. Choose to be the voice they may not yet have.

Thank you,
Ilonka Deaton
Survivor
615-495-4277

Chairperson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jaco Booyens, and I come before you not only as the head of JBM, where I have spent over 25 years fighting human trafficking, but also as a family member of a survivor. My sister was trafficked for six long years—years stolen from her childhood, years that can never be given back. I have seen firsthand the devastation that trafficking inflicts—not just on the victims, but on their families. The pain does not end when the trafficking does; it lingers, it reshapes lives, and it demands a lifetime of healing.

One of the most tragic realities I have come to understand in this fight is how preventable so much of this suffering could be. My sister, like too many children, was failed in multiple ways—failed by a system that did not educate her on what trafficking looks like, failed by a society that normalizes the very grooming tactics traffickers use, and failed by the unchecked exposure to pornography that distorts a child's understanding of boundaries and consent. These failures kept her in silence, and they cost her years of freedom, while my family was left unaware, powerless to intervene.

This is why education in schools is critical. If we do not provide children with the education they need to recognize the signs of trafficking, to understand how predators operate, and to know where to seek help, we are leaving them vulnerable. We must arm them with knowledge that can save their lives. Prevention starts with education, and right now, we are failing to give them the tools they need to protect themselves.

But prevention is only part of the fight. The high cost of recovery for survivors is another battle we cannot ignore. Trafficking steals years from its victims, and the financial burden of trauma therapy, medical care, and rehabilitation often prevents them from fully healing. My sister and countless others like her have had to fight not just for their freedom, but for the resources they need to rebuild their lives. No survivor should have to struggle to afford recovery from a crime they never chose.

This is not just a policy issue—it is a human issue. The decisions made in this room will determine whether we continue to allow traffickers to operate in the shadows or whether we stand up, draw a hard line, and say, “Not on our watch.” If we do not act, more children will suffer. More families will grieve. More survivors will carry the weight of trauma that could have been prevented.

I urge you to take bold action. Protect our children from the dangers that are stealing their innocence. Implement policies that ensure education in schools so that children are empowered before they become victims. Provide the necessary support so that survivors can access the healing they deserve. And stand with survivors and their families, not just in words but in laws that ensure no child is left to fight this battle alone.



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: David Tamisiea, Executive Director
Date: February 5, 2025
Re: SB 2330 — Human Trafficking Education in Schools

The North Dakota Catholic Conference strongly supports common-sense legislation to fight against the scourge of human trafficking and the closely related crimes of prostitution and commercial exploitation of children. These intersecting crimes violate the dignity of the human person, the sanctity of human life, and fundamental rights of the human person.

All three of the last popes (John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have publicly decried human trafficking and called for its eradication and for the protection of its victims. Our two North Dakotan bishops, Bishop David Kagan and Bishop John Folda, have asked that addressing the problem of human trafficking be made a legislative priority.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked for labor or commercial sex acts worldwide – including right here in North Dakota. It can happen in any community, and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Human trafficking often is hidden and goes unidentified. It is a crime that flourishes in darkness.

According to the federal Department of Homeland Security, one of the most effective means of combatting human trafficking is being able to recognize the crime and identify its victims.

SB 2330 aims to address the problem of human trafficking by establishing a mandatory human trafficking education program for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education. This program would raise awareness about human trafficking, help students identify trafficked victims, give them knowledge about common risk factors, and enlist their help in preventing trafficking from ever happening.

We respectfully ask for a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2330.

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To: **Chairman Beard, Vice Chairman Lemm** and distinguished members of the Senate Education Committee.

From: **Lowell Hochhalter**, Co-Founder/CEO of The LifeGuard Group, and anti trafficking organization based in Missoula Montana.

www.thelifeguardgroup.org

Re: **SB2330** - Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

An outline of my testimony **IN FAVOR** of SB2330, that I will present, in person, February 5, 2025

In front of this committee is a Bill that carries with it the potential to alter the lives of generations that come after us. Human Trafficking is not a new problem. For far too long, we as Americans, have ignored the red flags of sexual exploitation of children, and adults. We have turned a blind eye to the trafficking of individuals for domestic servitude, debt bondage, and slavery. And we have shrugged off the responsibility of aggressively protecting our children.

Educating students about human trafficking in middle and high school is essential. Knowledge empowers students to recognize the signs, understand the risks, and make informed decisions about their safety. Adolescents are at a critical age when they begin navigating more independent environments—both online and offline—and may become vulnerable to predators. By raising awareness early, schools can provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to protect themselves and others from exploitation. Furthermore, this education fosters empathy, helping students understand the global and local impact of human trafficking while encouraging a sense of social responsibility.

Early education equips students with the tools to proactively prevent trafficking and advocate for victims, contributing to safer communities and a more informed generation.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average age of an individual recruited into sex trafficking is between 12 and 14 years old.

95% of victims encountered Law Enforcement during their time of exploitation. 89% were involved with a healthcare professional while being trafficked. Almost 70% of trafficking victims have stated that they came in contact with an educator during their time of exploitation.

Since 2010 we have been providing school assembly presentations to middle schools, junior high schools and high schools. In 100% of schools we have had a(n) individual(s) present us with lived experience of human trafficking. In 2013, 2014, and again in 2015, our team visited schools across our great state. In April 2014, we embarked on what we called "The Bakken Tour." exited the gymnasium. It was not uncommon for students to come to our presenters, especially the woman who spoke as a survivor.

Briefly share our experience in Williston with 11 year old girl.

It was Mahatma Ghandi who said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable." Kids are vulnerable, simply because they are kids. I urge this committee to send this Bill forward with a resounding affirmation for approval. Thank you for your the opportunity to be in front of you today.



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2330

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 5, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Beard and honorable members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in favor of Senate Bill 2330 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization believes that every person has inherent worth, and dignity given from God. Human trafficking, in its various forms, steals that worth and dignity away from the people who are victims of it. A person becomes dehumanized and is turned into a product, rather than a soul with worth, capability, and potential. They deserve to be loved. That feeling of love gets ripped away when people are bought and sold like a commodity.

Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime that violates a victim in many ways but can be well hidden. Human trafficking is commonly described as hidden in plain sight. In North Dakota, I would also go so far as to say that many people simply don't know what it is.

I can attest to that fact. Growing up, we heard about "stranger danger" in lower elementary school, but that was really it. I didn't know what human trafficking was until I was a junior at the University of Mary. I had the privilege of taking a night class on the issue of human trafficking through my studies in Criminal Justice. The class was taught by Stacy Schaffer from the 31:8 Project.

I can confidently say that class changed my life. All at once I was aware of a massive population of people who are slaves today. I learned so much about how these horrible crimes work, how the criminals twist the minds of their victims, the hopelessness of these situations, and so much more. These things absolutely gripped my soul, and I wondered why I was only learning about this now, as a junior in college.

I came out of that class believing that every single person on that campus needed to know about this horrible issue, and that's exactly what this bill addresses. It has been a personal goal of mine ever since I finished that class to help people understand what is going on right under our noses. This bill, if it becomes law, has the potential to affect not only the kids and faculty in

our schools and universities, but the entirety of our state. This education can and will change people's lives.

With anything, one of the first steps to fighting and addressing a problem is raising awareness. As a lifelong citizen of North Dakota, I can say that the average citizen does not know what human trafficking looks like. This bill directly addresses that issue and educates the citizens of our state who are arguably most vulnerable to this crime. Because of these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2330.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Beard and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Kimberly Hurst and I reside in District 1, and I am testifying neutral on SB 2330 today.

I believe this is an important issue in our country, and our children should receive education on sex trafficking. However, I am concerned about the curriculum and resource materials that will be used. Sensitive topics, such as this or even ones like suicide, can be challenging to address in a school setting. While these discussions are essential, they must be approached carefully and with appropriate parental involvement and consent.

For example, last school year in WBSD#7, the district conducted a suicide prevention day that included an emotionally intense video. The content was so distressing that both students and some teachers became visibly upset. While the intent was to raise awareness, the delivery inadvertently created additional mental health concerns and for some it did more harm than good.

Similarly, sex trafficking is a serious and impactful subject for young children. Making education on this topic mandatory raises concerns about how the information will be presented and the potential emotional impact on students. It is crucial to ensure that such sensitive topics are handled in

a way that is both effective and appropriate for the well-being of all children.

In addition to concerns about content, I also question how this topic will be appropriately taught to tender-aged children, particularly those as young as five years old. Introducing such sensitive subjects at an early age necessitates careful consideration of the potential impact on children's mental and emotional well-being. It is also important to recognize that most elementary-aged children—especially those in kindergarten through fourth grade—are not yet familiar with the concept of sex. Therefore, mandating school districts to introduce a topic as complex and sensitive as sex trafficking to such young students is deeply worrisome. It risks exposing them to material that may not be developmentally appropriate. Given the nature of this subject, parents should have the opportunity to preview all educational materials, and parental consent should be a required component of any curriculum addressing this issue.

These are some of the concerns I have with the bill in its current form. However, as previously stated, I fully support having these important conversations with our children. While I believe such discussions are essential, they should be approached with caution and require full parental involvement. I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the sensitive nature of this bill and how it can be implemented effectively and

appropriately. Thank you for your time, attention to this matter, and dedicated service to the state of North Dakota.

Kimberly Hurst



SB 2330

Senate Education Committee

February 5, 2025

Lisa A. Johnson, North Dakota University System
701-340-5054 | lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu

Chair Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee -

My name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs with the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am writing in opposition to SB2330 on behalf of the 11 campuses of the NDUS.

First, I wish to clarify that the colleges and universities of the NDUS understand the intent of SB2330 and the assumed impact required education could have in reducing human trafficking and exploitation prevention in North Dakota. Unfortunately, the bill's sponsors may not be aware of the overlapping and complementary training that is already being conducted within the NDUS. Opposition to SB2330 stems from concerns about adding two more hours of required education to already lengthy orientation sessions and the lack of funds to implement or contract with a qualified non-profit training provider. Additional concerns reported by campuses include the following:

Redundancy of Required Student Training

- NDUS colleges and universities already actively engage in educational programming with students and employees around topics of human trafficking, exploitation prevention, and related topics and reports on violent crimes through the Clery Act. Clery Act training is required annually for all staff that are responsible for reporting. Any false reports or mistakes result in a minimum of a \$69,733 fine, per mistake, so the stakes are high for institutions in terms of compliance. The Clery Act includes (expensive) training required under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) related to preventing sexual violence and includes hosting in-person presentations by the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Youthworks, and other organizations related to human trafficking and exploitation prevention. NDUS colleges and universities routinely host events and talks around National Human Trafficking Month and other in-house educational programming opportunities such as health fairs.
- Title IX is a federal law in place since 1972 and it requires annual notification of policies, procedures, how to report, and information about the process on an annual basis for all students and staff. Most campuses use training resources acquired and managed through a third-party educational provider to distribute this required information to their campus community. Further, Title IX requires swift action if a report were to come forward. Typical Title IX training on a campus lasts anywhere from 15-45 minutes. Most, if not all, campuses provide ongoing programming and education around sexual assault prevention, dating violence, bystander trainings, etc. and many partner with their local rape crisis center for this kind of programming.

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requires all campuses “establish a mandatory prevention and education program about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking for all incoming students (first year students, transfer students, etc.) working with campus and community-based victim advocacy organizations.” The campuses are “mandated” to provide the training, but it isn’t mandatory for all students and staff to attend the trainings. Campuses are to encourage students to comply/attend/complete the training.

Additional information that must be provided to students includes:

- Access to crime data through annual safety reports
- Victim support information, including details on victim rights and support services for crimes like sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- Issuing timely warning when necessary (such as there was a violent crime in the parking garage last night; please be advised)
- Maintaining an emergency notification system
- Providing a campus security policy disclosure (explaining how to report crimes, the role of campus authorities, how the campus responds to emergencies, etc.)

Time Requirements of the Mandated Training

SB2330 calls for the required training to take place during freshmen orientation. NDSU Orientation is already an extremely busy time for large numbers of incoming students (and staff). Last year, 2,364 students and 3,073 guests/family members participated in 17 Orientation sessions, each with an itinerary of 7+ hours and over 33 sessions. The current structure does not allow for an additional two-hour mandated training without additional burdens on staff and the extension of an already long program. Additionally, students/families already report that the length of Orientation is too long. Students would likely react negatively to this additional topic being covered at a time they are already anxious about the transition to college.

Efficacy of Mandatory Training

When considering the needs of first-year students and families, requiring a two-hour presentation on human trafficking as part of their introduction to the institution is not likely to be successful from either a learning standpoint or university relations standpoint.

Financial/Workload Impact

- Financial Impact: Either institutions are forced to reassign or hire new staff to develop, implement, assess, and report on required in-house trainings, or are required to spend money to hire outside speakers to comply with SB2330. During a time when budgets/staff time are stretched thin, these would have a significant negative impact, particularly in the absence of appropriated funds from the state to accomplish the mandatory trainings.

- Staff Workload: Development/implementation would require countless hours of educational development, room reservations, additional staff for presentation/facilitation of discussion, tracking attendance, follow up, communication, and mandatory reporting.

The NDUS respectfully requests a **Do Not Pass** on SB2330 as currently written.

ANNEX

Specific concerns about the proposed curriculum of Senate Bill 2330

1. Human trafficking

Human trafficking is essentially the crime of enslavement, of which sexual enslavement is a subset. If we are going to talk about human trafficking in an honest way, we would talk about **ALL** modern day slavery, including in hotels, casinos, nail salons, homes, and farms.

When I was five years old, I learned the word “Shanghai” as not only a place name for a city but also as a verb – a verb that described the kidnapping of drunken men in San Francisco and then forcing them to work on ships where the next port of call would be Shanghai.

Yet, this curriculum seems to focus almost entirely on sex trafficking.

2. Informing students about the dangers...

Sex trafficking is important for children to learn about. Delicately. I'm not sure how children can be fully informed about the dangers they face without exposing them to the very “sexually explicit material” that this bill's authors seek to shield children from at public libraries.

Children should be told to not let anyone touch their rectums, their genitals, or their breasts. And they might not have a clue what sexual assault – or sex – really is unless they know that “Tab A goes into Slot B”.

In Matthew 10:16, Jesus Christ charged his disciples to first be “wise as serpents” and then to be “innocent as doves”. Not the other way around. Be watchful. Be wise. Be informed.

3. Victim profiling tactics of human traffickers

What is there to say? Weakness. It would be easier to kidnap a man if he is drunk or drugged than if he stays sober. Similar if a young woman feels emotionally vulnerable due to relentless body shaming.

Remember this – for every nine people one might help in warning them about the dangers of kidnappers, there will be a tenth who will perceive this subject matter to be training on how to hurt other people.

I doubt that human traffickers all use one technique. While they probably trade tips with one another, each has his or her own style.

4. The role of pornography

The role of pornography? Which one? There are many roles.

We can talk about how pornography trains its viewers to learn unrealistic – even comical – expectations of what sex really is, or can be.

What appalls me about much pornography is how **unerotic** it is. It often becomes as boring and mechanical as watching a washing machine.

Even prostitutes will sometimes complain about pornography because of both its lack of realism and how men who watch too much pornography often lose interest in the physical act of sex altogether.

But what about the role of outlets such as OnlyFans and Fansly? They provide an online pipeline to turn civilian women out. Many of these women eventually become “full service sex workers” – prostitutes.

5. Methods to identify a potential victim...

This might be useful, if it weren't for one problem –

The very people who would be the most effective for identifying victims of human trafficking may risk jail time if they say anything to the police.

This is particularly the case for sex trafficking. Prostitutes and their clients generally know “the lay of the land” and would be able to identify victims of sex trafficking most effectively. Yet, they can't exactly report anything to the police without outing themselves as criminals and potentially getting themselves arrested.

No, I'm not calling for decriminalization of prostitution – I resolutely oppose that route – but I am saying it is self-defeating to expect people to identify potential victims whenever they get penalized for doing so.

6. Information about...

It is good to make information available to people how to defend themselves against force, fraud, coercion, grooming, abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation. That said, we should not turn this session into an instructional primer on how to become a pimp!

7. The difference between human trafficking and prostitution

Prostitution is when a hooker gets paid for highly intense emotional and physical labor. Human trafficking is when a trafficked victim is forced to perform highly intense emotional and physical labor against her will.

Why does this bill intend to force school teachers and college freshmen to perform highly intense emotional labor without even paying them?

At least a hooker gets paid!

8. How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created...

Criminalizing industries where there is a robust demand for the services is an excellent way to ensure that these industries become dominated by professional criminals. By definition, sex workers are professional criminals here. So, there is not only a niche for professional kidnappers to exploit, but there is little incentive for the kidnappers to get reported.

9. Alternatives

Teaching teachers and college freshmen how to spot a trafficked victim is only half the story – not arresting them for talking is the other half.

If the 69th Legislative Assembly were truly serious about stopping sex trafficking in North Dakota, it would restructure the legal code surrounding prostitution. Rather than focus on Title 12.1 (the Criminal Code), prostitution would be put under Title 23 – Health and Safety.

The Legislature would pass a study resolution to promote health and safety with a focus on (1) reducing sexually transmitted infections, (2) reducing sex trafficking, (3) reducing violence (especially murder) against prostitutes, (4) reducing economic exploitation of prostitutes, and (5) providing nonjudgmental exit strategies for prostitutes.

Legislative Management would then arrange for an interim study on how to accomplish these five goals, with a bill ready for next session.

If this Legislature were serious, that is...

Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 2330

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

February 5, 2025

Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Bismarck.

I don't always agree with the State Board of Higher Education, but when I do, I prefer to do it for very good reasons.

I think Senate Bill 2330 is a road paved with good intentions.

This bill micromanages freshman orientation. Two hours may sound reasonable, but have you been in a classroom with a lecture that goes on for two hours? Students get bored and their eyes wander.

Believe me – if I tried to talk about anything in front of a legislative committee for two hours, the chair would cut me off – for good reason.

If the Legislature succeeds at mandating these two hours, another legislative session will probably mandate two hours for something else. And eventually, there wouldn't be enough time during orientation to tell freshmen anything else. It's like the story of the camel in the tent.

This bill forces both college freshmen and school teachers at every grade level to put in two hours of highly intense emotional labor.

And – it's an unfunded mandate. It is well known that local governments and state institutions detest unfunded mandates.

Before school teachers and college freshmen get forced to watch this two hour lecture about human trafficking, let's make sure every state legislator gets forced to watch this lecture first. I would venture to guess that, mathematically speaking, more state legislators would be in better position to pay for sex than college students would – and hence, be in a better position to use this information to report sex trafficking.

I regard stopping sex trafficking to be very important. I just don't think this legislation would be an effective way to accomplish this. It would be more effective to create an incentive structure to ensure that people can report human trafficking to the police while not outing themselves as professional criminals and putting themselves in danger of arrest.

I have many ideas on what I think *would* work to stop sex trafficking. If you would like to hear some constructive ideas on how to make that happen, I think you know where to find me.

Please provide Senate Bill 2330 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

I am open for questions.

Sixty-ninth North Dakota Legislative Assembly
Senate Education Committee
S.B. 2330
February 5, 2025



P.O. Box 1190
Fargo, ND 58107
701-404-7269
aclund.org

Chair Beard, Vice Chair Lemm, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the ACLU of North Dakota, I submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2330 on human trafficking, exploitation prevention, and awareness education—in its current form.

Through policy advocacy and litigation, the American Civil Liberties Union has long been dedicated to holding the United States accountable to international human rights laws and standards as well as the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. A priority of this work has been to address human trafficking, and education plays an important role in these efforts.

SB 2330 is a noble effort to raise awareness, promote resources, mitigate risk, and protect children and adults from the dangers of trafficking. However, the proposed legislation is significantly incomplete without the inclusion of comprehensive sex education.

Currently, North Dakota schools are required to teach sex education, however the curriculum is not required to be comprehensive, with no requirements for instruction on consent, safe sex practices, and no standard regarding medically accurate sex education instruction. Without these foundations of knowledge, the value of human trafficking education would be significantly dampened or rendered ineffective.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) School Health Profiles (2019) reported which school health policies, practices, and health topics were taught in schools across the country. Highlights of the North Dakota report demonstrate insufficient sex education across our state to prepare students for participating in human trafficking curriculum:

- 15.1% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students all 20 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 28.6% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students all 20 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 15.1% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 28.6% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 57.5% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 74.2% of North Dakota secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

The issues and goals sought to be addressed by SB 2330 are too important not to provide the requisite base education for exploring the difficult and deep content required of the proposed mandatory curriculum. The ACLU of North Dakota urges the inclusion of age appropriate comprehensive sex education in Section 2 of the bill or a comprehensive sex education pre-requisite requirement for the proposed mandatory curriculum.

The ACLU of North Dakota requests the Senate Education Committee to give a “do not pass” recommendation on SB2330 in its current form if not amended to include a comprehensive sex education requirement.

Submitted by:

Cody J. Schuler

Advocacy Manager, ACLU of North Dakota
Lobbyist #367, cschuler@aclu.org



1 **Testimony in Support with request for AMENDMENT to Senate Bill 2330**

2 Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We agree this is very important – however we are
 4 asking that there be a consideration of this training occurring in another venue. We are here to
 5 ask that you please not put another requirement on our public schools. While the prevention of
 6 human trafficking is undoubtedly a critical issue, this bill **misplaces the burden of education on**
 7 **an already overextended public school system** instead of leveraging institutions better suited
 8 for such education. Please don't misrepresent this as opposition to the notion that our children
 9 need to know – we just believe that perhaps the delivery mechanism would be better placed in a
 10 different venue.

11 **Public Schools Are Already Overburdened with Mandates**

12 North Dakota's public schools are tasked with fulfilling a **long and exhaustive list of state and**
 13 **federal requirements**, covering academic standards, special education services, safety
 14 protocols, mental health and suicide prevention programs, bullying prevention and policing,
 15 extensive professional development and reporting mandates and various other student support
 16 initiatives. Each year, additional mandates are added to their plate, stretching resources thin and
 17 pulling educators away from their primary focus: **academic excellence and student success**. To
 18 be honest – we are asked constantly about test scores in math and reading and yet each session
 19 I've been here in representation of K12 since 2013 there have been at least 3-4 new mandates on
 20 schools unrelated to those topics.

21 Rather than introducing **yet another requirement** that diverts time and funding from core
 22 educational priorities, a more effective approach would be to **place this education where it**
 23 **belongs—in churches, at the family level, community organizations, and law enforcement**
 24 **outreach programs**, which are better equipped to provide in-depth, specialized training on
 25 sensitive social issues. As an incredibly important yet sensitive topic the level of early
 26 communication and opportunity for opt out would be significant.

27 **The Role of Churches and Community Organizations**

28 Faith-based institutions and community organizations have long played an integral role in
 29 addressing **moral and societal concerns**, including issues of human trafficking and exploitation.
 30 Many churches already conduct **outreach programs**, engage in **victim support efforts**, and
 31 collaborate with law enforcement to **raise awareness in their congregations**. These settings
 32 offer **trusted, values-based education** that can be **more impactful** than a mandatory school
 33 training session.

34 Additionally, requiring educators—who are not subject-matter experts on human trafficking—to
 35 deliver this training is neither **practical nor effective**. The solution should lie in **partnerships**



1 **with organizations that specialize in prevention efforts**, rather than making this another
2 checkbox in the already overburdened school system.

3 The **\$48,000 appropriation** attached to this bill is an insufficient amount to properly implement
4 such an extensive program, meaning that much of the cost burden will fall on local school
5 districts. And I have to ask – what about non-public schools and home school children? All the
6 more reason for the shift – those students would not be missed.

7 **Accountability and Implementation Concerns**

8 The bill mandates that schools report:

- 9 • **A summary of incidents reported as a result of the training**
- 10 • **Feedback on program effectiveness**
- 11 • **The number of students and faculty who received training**

12 This raises serious **privacy and legal concerns** regarding the reporting of sensitive information.
13 Additionally, there is **no clear metric** for how effectiveness will be measured, nor is there a
14 defined enforcement mechanism for ensuring compliance.

15 **Conclusion**

16 Human trafficking prevention is a serious issue that deserves attention, but **public schools**
17 **should not be the primary vehicle for this training**. This bill would add **yet another**
18 **bureaucratic requirement** to an already overwhelmed education system, stretching resources
19 that should be dedicated to academic success. Instead, the state should **empower churches,**
20 **community organizations, and law enforcement agencies, and parents to lead these efforts**
21 in collaboration with families. We've seen so many bills stating that the parents are the lead in
22 the child's life and their overall leader in their child's education - perhaps a thoughtful bill about
23 how communities and faith-based organizations can partner with the parent is the more
24 appropriate approach.

25 For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to **please amend** Senate Bill 2330 and to
26 explore alternative approaches to deliver this very important information to our children.

27 Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions the committee may have.



NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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Bismarck ND 58501
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127
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SB 2303

Testimony of Amy De Kok

Senate Education

February 5, 2025

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education, my name is Amy De Kok. I am the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents all 168 North Dakota public school districts and their governing boards. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2330. While NDSBA strongly supports efforts to combat human trafficking and believes that education and awareness are critical components of prevention, we must respectfully oppose the bill as it pertains to the mandates imposed on public school districts.

Unfunded Mandate

The bill requires that all public school districts implement human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as for faculty. However, the bill provides only \$48,000 in total funding statewide for implementation through the Superintendent of Public Instruction and provides no funding directly to schools to comply with its requirements. This amount is inadequate to cover curriculum development, professional training, instructional time, and reporting obligations. Without sufficient funding, the burden of compliance will fall on school districts, many of which are already struggling with limited resources.

Age Appropriateness and Sensitivity Concerns

While the bill states that the curriculum must be "developmentally appropriate," it mandates instruction on complex and potentially distressing topics such as coercion, grooming, pornography, and victim profiling as early as kindergarten. These are sensitive topics that require careful handling and may not be suitable for younger students without a more tailored approach.

Increased Administrative and Reporting Burdens

The bill mandates an annual report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction detailing the number of students and faculty trained, incidents reported, and feedback on program effectiveness. This creates an additional administrative burden on schools, requiring personnel time and resources to comply

with the reporting requirements. Moreover, the expectation to report "incidents" arising from this education may lead to challenges in tracking and interpreting disclosures made by students.

Local Control and Curriculum Flexibility

School districts should retain the flexibility to determine how best to integrate human trafficking education into existing curricula. Many districts already include personal safety and online safety education that cover elements of trafficking prevention. Mandating a separate, two-hour annual instruction session for all students and faculty may be redundant and could disrupt already limited instructional time for core academic subjects.

Parental Rights and Community Considerations

While the bill allows for optional workshops for parents and guardians, it does not provide a clear mechanism for parental opt-out should families feel the content is not appropriate for their children. School districts should have the ability to engage parents and community stakeholders in determining the most effective and appropriate way to provide this education.

Recommendations

Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate, we recommend that the Legislature:

- Provide sufficient funding to support curriculum development and teacher training if human trafficking education is to be required.
- Allow school districts the flexibility to incorporate trafficking prevention education into existing programs on personal safety, online safety, and health education.
- Ensure that any requirements related to human trafficking education take into account the age-appropriateness of materials, the professional training of educators delivering the instruction, and the involvement of parents in the process.
- Reduce the administrative burden by limiting reporting requirements to essential data points and providing clear guidance on implementation.

We appreciate the bill's intent to protect and educate students, but without appropriate resources and flexibility, SB 2330 risks placing undue strain on public school districts. We urge the committee to reconsider or amend this legislation to address these concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Introductory Speech for Senate Bill No. 2330
Senate education committee
Date

Good morning, Chairman Beard and members of the Education committee, I am Senator Keith Boehm from District 33 .

Today, I have the privilege of introducing Senate Bill No. 2330, a forward-thinking piece of legislation aimed at addressing one of the most pervasive and devastating issues of our time—human trafficking and exploitation.

This bill seeks to ensure that both students and faculty in North Dakota's public schools and institutions of higher education are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to identify, prevent, and combat human trafficking and exploitation. By mandating annual, evidence-based education programs, this legislation focuses on building awareness, fostering prevention, and empowering communities to take actionable steps.

The highlights of this bill include:

1. **Comprehensive Education Requirements:** Programs will provide essential information on the nature of human trafficking, its tactics, and its impact. This includes recognizing victim profiling, understanding grooming techniques, and addressing the role of online activities and pornography in perpetuating exploitation. All within the boundaries of age-appropriate material.
2. **Community Engagement:** In addition to educating students from kindergarten through higher education, the bill offers resources for parents and guardians to strengthen the protective circle around our children.
3. **Accountability and Effectiveness:** Institutions will be required to report on the implementation and outcomes of these programs, ensuring they are impactful and addressing real-world concerns.
4. **Collaboration:** The bill emphasizes culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and evidence-based practices, with the flexibility to partner with nonprofit organizations specializing in this critical area.

This bill is not just about education; it's about safeguarding lives. Human trafficking affects every community, and the demand for exploitation does not recognize state boundaries. By acting now, we can better protect our young people and those who might otherwise fall victim to these heinous crimes. I have heard the comments that ask the question "you mean that occurs in North Dakota" and the answer is yes. There will be testimony to this question.

Finally, the appropriation of 150000 in an amendment demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the success of these programs. It is a modest yet vital investment in the safety and future of our state's residents.

I urge this committee to consider the profound impact this legislation could have on countless lives across North Dakota. Together, we have an opportunity to lead the way in preventing human trafficking and exploitation through education and awareness. I ask that the committee will give this bill a do pass recommendation. I stand for questions

(7) Information regarding:

(a) Force, fraud, and coercion;

(b) Grooming;

(c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;

(d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;

(e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and

(f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which

industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and

(8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,

including reporting information to the proper authorities.

**SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

EDUCATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$48,000~~\$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

Policy and Implementation

1. **How will the curriculum for human trafficking and exploitation education be developed, and who will oversee its creation?**
 - The curriculum will be developed in collaboration with experts in human trafficking prevention, education professionals, and nonprofit organizations specializing in this field. Oversight will be provided by the State Board of Higher Education for colleges and universities and the local school boards for K-12 schools, ensuring alignment with state educational standards.
 2. **What criteria will be used to ensure the programs are culturally sensitive and evidence-based?**
 - Programs must adhere to evidence-based practices verified by subject-matter experts and undergo periodic reviews to confirm their effectiveness. Cultural sensitivity will be ensured by consulting diverse community stakeholders and incorporating materials that reflect the backgrounds and experiences of North Dakota's student population.
 3. **How will the state ensure that the content is appropriate for different age groups, especially younger students in kindergarten through grade 12?**
 - The legislation mandates that content for younger students is developmentally appropriate. For instance, education in early grades may focus on personal safety and recognizing inappropriate behavior, while high school programs will delve into more complex topics like grooming, trafficking tactics, and reporting procedures.
 4. **What mechanisms will be in place to monitor the effectiveness of these programs over time?**
 - Annual reporting by institutions and schools will provide data on program implementation, feedback, and outcomes. Reports will include metrics such as the number of participants, incidents identified, and stakeholder feedback. Additionally, periodic external evaluations may be conducted to ensure continuous improvement.
-

Funding and Resources

5. **Is the \$150,000 appropriation sufficient to implement and sustain these programs across the state?**
 - The \$150,000 appropriation is designed to provide initial funding for curriculum development, initial training, and administrative support. Schools and institutions may need to leverage partnerships with nonprofits, local resources, or grant funding to sustain the program long-term.
6. **What specific costs are covered by the allocated funds (e.g., curriculum development, training, materials, nonprofit partnerships)?**
 - The allocated funds will primarily cover:

- Development and procurement of educational materials.
 - Initial training for educators and facilitators.
 - Administrative costs associated with implementing and monitoring the program.
7. **How will public schools and higher education institutions manage any additional costs not covered by this appropriation?**
- Schools and institutions may seek additional funding through state grants, federal programs, or partnerships with nonprofit organizations that offer free or low-cost educational resources.
-

Partnerships and Collaborations

8. **Are there specific nonprofit organizations the state plans to partner with to deliver this education?**
- The state will issue guidelines for partnering with reputable nonprofits specializing in human trafficking prevention, such as organizations with a proven track record in education and outreach. Partnerships will be vetted for alignment with program objectives and evidence-based methodologies.
9. **How will schools and institutions ensure that external organizations align with the state's educational goals and standards?**
- Nonprofits and other partners will be required to submit materials for review and approval by the State Board of Higher Education or local school boards. Contracts will stipulate compliance with state educational goals and cultural sensitivity requirements.
10. **What role will local law enforcement or social services play in supporting this initiative?**
- Law enforcement and social services may assist in developing content on reporting procedures, legal implications, and support services available for victims. Their expertise will provide real-world insights and enhance the credibility of the program.
-

Accountability and Reporting

11. **How will schools and institutions report the effectiveness of their programs and incidents identified through these efforts?**
- Schools and institutions must submit annual reports detailing:
 - The number of participants trained.
 - Summary of incidents reported.
 - Stakeholder feedback on program effectiveness.
 - Recommendations for improvement.
12. **What measures will be taken if a school or institution fails to meet the program requirements or reporting standards?**

- Institutions failing to comply may receive additional guidance and resources to address deficiencies. Persistent noncompliance may result in reviews by the superintendent of public instruction or the State Board of Higher Education.
- 13. Will there be independent reviews or audits of the reports submitted by schools and institutions?**
- Periodic independent reviews may be conducted to validate the accuracy of reports and assess the overall impact of the program. These reviews will provide transparency and accountability.
-

Stakeholder Concerns

- 14. How will parents and guardians be informed about this program, and what options will they have to participate or opt out?**
- Parents and guardians will be informed through school communications, informational sessions, and access to educational materials. They will also have the opportunity to attend workshops or access optional resources to complement their child's education.
- 15. What steps will be taken to address potential concerns from educators about implementing these programs?**
- Educators will receive thorough training to ensure they are prepared and confident in delivering the material. Their feedback will be actively sought and incorporated into program adjustments.
- 16. How will the state address pushback from those who may view the content as too sensitive or controversial for younger students?**
- The program is designed to be developmentally appropriate, focusing on personal safety for younger students. Clear communication about the content and its importance in preventing exploitation will help address concerns. Parents will also have the option to review materials and provide input.
-

Broader Impact

- 17. How will this legislation improve the overall safety and well-being of students and communities in North Dakota?**
- By increasing awareness and education, this program aims to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking and exploitation. Empowered students and faculty will be better equipped to recognize and respond to threats, fostering safer schools and communities.
- 18. What metrics will be used to determine whether the program is reducing human trafficking and exploitation in the state?**
- Metrics will include:
 - Reports of identified trafficking incidents.
 - Feedback from participants on awareness and preparedness.

- Changes in local statistics related to trafficking and exploitation.

19. Are there plans to expand these initiatives to private schools or other community organizations in the future?

- While the current focus is on public schools and higher education institutions, the program's success could pave the way for expansion to private schools, community groups, and other stakeholders interested in combating human trafficking.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2330
2/5/2025

Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

3:16 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Discussion Topics:

- Age-appropriate discussion
- Professional Development for staff
- Orientation time feasibility
- Topic for Health curriculum

3:16 p.m. Committee discussion

3:28 p.m. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic/Student Affairs ND University System, answered questions from the committee.

3:47 p.m. Chairman Beard recessed the hearing.

3:53 p.m. Chairman Beard reconvened the hearing.

3:55 p.m. Committee discussion on giving time for possible proposed amendments.

3:57 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2330
2/17/2025

Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

9:38 a.m. Chairman Beard called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt.

Members Absent: Senator Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Task force
- Grade level appropriateness
- Change "must" to "may"

9:38 a.m. Chairman Beard submitted proposed amendment testimony #37855.

9:55 a.m. Senator Gerhardt moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0551.05005.

9:55 a.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	AB

Motion Passed 5-0-1

9:56 a.m. Senator Boschee moved Do Pass as amended.

9:56 a.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	AB

Senate Education Committee
SB 2330
2/05/2025
Page 2

Motion Passed 5-0-1

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

9:53 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

February 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by

Senators Boehm, Myrdal, Paulson

Representatives McLeod, S. Olson, Rohr

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section ~~to chapter 15-10 and a new section to~~
2 chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~mandatory~~ human trafficking and
3 exploitation prevention and awareness education for students ~~and faculty~~ at public schools and
4 ~~public institutions of higher education~~ tribal schools; ~~to provide for a report~~; and to provide an
5 appropriation.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 ~~**SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created**~~
8 ~~**and enacted as follows:**~~

9 ~~**Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education -- Report.**~~

10 ~~**1. The state board of higher education shall:**~~

11 ~~**a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and**~~
12 ~~**awareness education for students and faculty. As used in this section, "human**~~
13 ~~**trafficking" includes sex trafficking.**~~

14 ~~**b. Require education addressing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and**~~
15 ~~**awareness for all freshmen enrolled at an institution under the control of the**~~
16 ~~**board.**~~

17 ~~**2. An institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall report on**~~
18 ~~**the implementation of this section to the state board of higher education before July 1,**~~
19 ~~**2026, and before July first of each following year. The report must include:**~~

20 ~~**a. A summary of incidents reported as a result of education under this section.**~~

- 1 ~~b. Feedback on program effectiveness.~~
- 2 ~~3. The education under this section:~~
- 3 ~~a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and~~
- 4 ~~education on human trafficking and exploitation.~~
- 5 ~~b. Must be culturally sensitive and use evidence-based practices.~~
- 6 ~~c. Must be provided annually during freshmen orientation activities for at least two~~
- 7 ~~hours.~~
- 8 ~~d. Must include:~~
- 9 ~~(1) Definitions and nature of human trafficking and exploitation;~~
- 10 ~~(2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;~~
- 11 ~~(3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state~~
- 12 ~~and across the United States;~~
- 13 ~~(4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;~~
- 14 ~~(5) The role of pornography;~~
- 15 ~~(6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following~~
- 16 ~~identification of a victim;~~
- 17 ~~(7) Information regarding:~~
- 18 ~~(a) Force, fraud, and coercion;~~
- 19 ~~(b) Grooming;~~
- 20 ~~(c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;~~
- 21 ~~(d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;~~
- 22 ~~(e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution;~~
- 23 ~~(f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which~~
- 24 ~~industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and~~
- 25 ~~(g) The role of online computer activity; and~~
- 26 ~~(8) Actionable steps to engage in the fight against human trafficking and~~
- 27 ~~exploitation.~~

28 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
29 and enacted as follows:

Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education—Report.

1. The board of a school district and the governing board of a school operated by a tribal government shall:

a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty. As used in this section, "human trafficking" includes sex trafficking.

b. Require schoolwide education addressing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness for all students in kindergarten through grade ~~grades~~ four through twelve.

c. ~~Annually report on the implementation of this section to the superintendent of public instruction before July 1, 2026, and before July first of each following year.~~

~~The report must include:~~

~~(1) The number of students, disaggregated by grade level, and faculty who received education under this section.~~

~~(2) A summary of incidents reported as a result of education under this section.~~

~~(3) Feedback on program effectiveness.~~

~~d. Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal safety and grooming prevention.~~

2. The education under this section:

a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and education on human trafficking and exploitation.

b. Must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and use evidence-based practices.

c. Must be provided annually to students ~~and must be provided annually for at least two hours to faculty.~~

d. ~~Must~~ May include:

(1) Definitions and the nature of human trafficking and exploitation;

(2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;

(3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state and across the United States;

- 1 (4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;
- 2 (5) The role of online computer activity and pornography;
- 3 (6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following
- 4 identification of a victim;
- 5 (7) Information regarding:
- 6 (a) Force, fraud, and coercion;
- 7 (b) Grooming;
- 8 (c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;
- 9 (d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;
- 10 (e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and
- 11 (f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which
- 12 industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and
- 13 (8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,
- 14 including reporting information to the proper authorities.

15 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**
16 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

17 **EDUCATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
18 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
19 the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and
20 exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
21 ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2330**

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0551.05005](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2330 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0551.05004
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Boehm
February 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by

Senators Boehm, Myrdal, Paulson

Representatives McLeod, S. Olson, Rohr

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section ~~to chapter 15-10 and a new section to~~
2 chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~mandatory~~ human trafficking and
3 exploitation prevention and awareness education for students ~~and faculty~~ at public schools and
4 ~~public institutions of higher education~~ tribal schools; ~~to provide for a report~~; and to provide an
5 appropriation.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 ~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
8 ~~and enacted as follows:~~
9 ~~Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education – Report.~~
10 ~~1. The state board of higher education shall:~~
11 ~~a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and~~
12 ~~awareness education for students and faculty. As used in this section, "human~~
13 ~~trafficking" includes sex trafficking.~~
14 ~~b. Require education addressing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and~~
15 ~~awareness for all freshmen enrolled at an institution under the control of the~~
16 ~~board.~~
17 ~~2. An institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall report on~~
18 ~~the implementation of this section to the state board of higher education before July 1,~~
19 ~~2026, and before July first of each following year. The report must include:~~
20 ~~a. A summary of incidents reported as a result of education under this section.~~

- 1 ~~b. Feedback on program effectiveness;~~
- 2 ~~3. The education under this section:~~
- 3 ~~a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and~~
- 4 ~~education on human trafficking and exploitation;~~
- 5 ~~b. Must be culturally sensitive and use evidence-based practices;~~
- 6 ~~c. Must be provided annually during freshmen orientation activities for at least two~~
- 7 ~~hours;~~
- 8 ~~d. Must include:~~
- 9 ~~(1) Definitions and nature of human trafficking and exploitation;~~
- 10 ~~(2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;~~
- 11 ~~(3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state~~
- 12 ~~and across the United States;~~
- 13 ~~(4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;~~
- 14 ~~(5) The role of pornography;~~
- 15 ~~(6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following~~
- 16 ~~identification of a victim;~~
- 17 ~~(7) Information regarding:~~
- 18 ~~(a) Force, fraud, and coercion;~~
- 19 ~~(b) Grooming;~~
- 20 ~~(c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;~~
- 21 ~~(d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;~~
- 22 ~~(e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution;~~
- 23 ~~(f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which~~
- 24 ~~industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and~~
- 25 ~~(g) The role of online computer activity; and~~
- 26 ~~(8) Actionable steps to engage in the fight against human trafficking and~~
- 27 ~~exploitation;~~

28 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
29 and enacted as follows:

Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education—Report.

1. The board of a school district and the governing board of a school operated by a tribal government shall:

a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty. As used in this section, "human trafficking" includes sex trafficking.

b. Require schoolwide education addressing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness for all students in kindergarten through grade grades four through twelve.

c. ~~Annually report on the implementation of this section to the superintendent of public instruction before July 1, 2026, and before July first of each following year. The report must include:~~

~~(1) The number of students, disaggregated by grade level, and faculty who received education under this section.~~

~~(2) A summary of incidents reported as a result of education under this section.~~

~~(3) Feedback on program effectiveness.~~

~~d. Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal safety and grooming prevention.~~

2. The education under this section:

a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and education on human trafficking and exploitation.

b. Must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and use evidence-based practices.

c. Must be provided annually to students and must be provided annually for at least two hours to faculty.

d. Must include:

(1) Definitions and the nature of human trafficking and exploitation;

(2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;

(3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state and across the United States;

- 1 (4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;
- 2 (5) The role of online computer activity and pornography;
- 3 (6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following
- 4 identification of a victim;
- 5 (7) Information regarding:
- 6 (a) Force, fraud, and coercion;
- 7 (b) Grooming;
- 8 (c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;
- 9 (d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;
- 10 (e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and
- 11 (f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which
- 12 industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and
- 13 (8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,
- 14 including reporting information to the proper authorities.

15 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**
16 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**
17 **EDUCATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
18 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
19 the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and
20 exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
21 ending June 30, 2027.

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2330

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2330
3/10/2025

Relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students at public schools and tribal schools; and to provide an appropriation.

2:46 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Online trafficking
- Online Exploitation
- Education on risks and warning signs

2:47 p.m. Senator Boehm introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #40101

2:57 p.m. Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #40005

3:00 p.m. Lowell Hochhalter, Founder/ CEO, The LifeGuard Group, testified in favor and submitted testimony. # 39942

3:18 p.m. Stacy Schaffer, Executive Director, 31:8 Project, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39904

3:21 p.m. David Tamisiea, Executive Director, ND Catholic Conference, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39818

3:24 p.m. Maurice Hardy, ND Resident, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39767

3:32 p.m. Tami Brown Rodriguez, Director of Policy Jaco Booyens Ministries, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39705

3:39 p.m. Andrew Alexis Varvel, Regional Historian, testified in opposition submitted testimony. #39825 #39970

3:46 p.m. Kevin Hoherz, Legislative Relations, ND Council Education Leaders, NDCEL, testified in opposition.

Additional written testimony:

Ilonka Deaton, Director of Advocacy, Jaco Booyens Ministries, submitted testimony in favor. #39993

3:49 p.m. Chairman Heinert adjourned the meeting.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

Delivered by Tami Brown Rodriguez
Director of Policy, Jaco Booyens Ministries

Good afternoon esteemed members of the committee,

I stand before you not just as the Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries, but as the aunt of a survivor. My niece was trafficked for 15 years—15 years of stolen innocence, of unimaginable pain, and of nights spent wondering if she would survive another day. Those years cannot be undone. Her smile, her childhood dreams, her sense of safety—snatched away by predators who thrived in the shadows of our collective silence and inaction.

Her story haunts me, not because it is extraordinary, but because it is heartbreakingly common. Thousands of children—precious sons and daughters—are preyed upon every single day. **The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children reports that 1 in 7 children online between the ages of 9 and 17 have been sexually solicited or approached by predators. By the time a child turns 14, a staggering number will have been propositioned online.** And for every one of them, there is a family like mine left to pick up the shattered pieces.

Meanwhile, predators are not few in number. **The FBI warns that at any given moment, there are over 750,000 predators online, searching for children to manipulate and exploit.** These are not theoretical risks. These are real dangers lurking behind every unregulated screen and every unsupervised app.

This bill is not just legislation—it is a lifeline. It is the chance to stop what happened to my niece from happening to another child. It is about giving students, parents, and educators the tools to fight back against traffickers who exploit vulnerabilities and manipulate through the faceless void of the internet. It is about ending the normalization of predatory behavior in our culture.

I have looked into the eyes of survivors, heard their trembling voices as they say, “If someone had told me what trafficking really was, I would have known I was a victim. I would have begged for help.” Those words stay with me. Because education isn’t just information—it is hope. It is survival. It is the difference between a child being enslaved and a child being saved.

We know what works. In North Dakota, SB 2330 ensures mandatory, comprehensive anti-trafficking education for every K-12 student and college freshman. It doesn’t just equip children; it empowers parents, trains faculty, and holds the system accountable. By contrast, Oklahoma’s HB 2396 made participation optional, and optional doesn’t protect children. Optional lets traffickers win.

The Supreme Court in the 1950s recognized that laws must evolve to meet new societal threats. Today, we face traffickers who don’t need to lurk in dark alleys—they invade through smartphones, social media, and online platforms. The battlefield has shifted, and our policies must catch up. We would never tolerate laws that leave children unprotected in the physical world. Why, then, would we allow loopholes that fail to guard them in the digital one?

We are in a dire situation. The predators are already in the room—with our children—hiding behind the glow of a screen. Will we leave them defenseless? Or will we act?

This bill represents what my niece never had—a chance. A chance to know, to fight, to survive. Let us not waste another moment. The stakes are too high. The cost of inaction is etched in the faces of countless victims, and the price is paid in the stolen lives of our children.

I urge you to act with courage. Let us not fail our children. Let us not fail their future.

Thank you,
Tami Brown Rodriguez
Family Member of a Survivor
Director of Policy & Licensing
Jaco Booyens Ministries
214-878-7825

Testimony Prepared for the
House Human Services Committee
March 10, 2025
Maurice Hardy

Senate Bill 2330: Relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students at public schools and tribal schools and provide an appropriation.

Good afternoon, Chairman Heinert and House Education Committee. I am Maurice Hardy a resident of District 30 and providing testimony on SB 2330 on behalf of myself and a friend and survivor who requested I speak to this bill. My background is in social work and rehabilitation counseling. I have worked with adolescents and adults my entire career. I received certification from Ohio University as a Sexual Offender Treatment Specialist and have worked with adolescent sex offenders. I have also served on a local school board and the state school board in the past.

Over the years I have attended various trainings and at one of them was one on human trafficking. At the time I was not working directly with offenders or victims and attended as it was most likely more interesting than the concurrent session being offered. I share this so you understand I was not 100% invested in the training.

Fast forward a couple of years I was working as a Home and Community Based Case manager and received a referral for a 40-something single lady who had suffered a stroke and was going to need some assistance in living independently in her apartment. This was a usual referral, and I had worked with many elderly and disabled in the same capacity. I didn't expect that I would meet a survivor of trafficking or what I would learn from her.

I went to "Matilda's" (not real name) apartment to complete my assessment. I entered and began my assessment like I have many times before. In conversation and gathering information Matilda used terms that were unfamiliar but reminded me of something. It was that training I was not 100% invested in. The terms; "The Life", "My Daddy", "Top" "Bottom". The "life" referring to the life lived by the victim and "daddy" as the owner. Mannerisms of not looking directly at me or my vicinity. My approach to the assessment changed to one of more caution and through that I found out Matilda had been trafficked since a young child and hadn't attended school past the first few weeks of 6th grade. Rough math Matilda had been in "the life" for well over 30 years.

In those 30 years, at least 2 traumatic brain injuries, broken bones and 4 unwanted pregnancies, numerous miscarriages and forced abortions. 2 of the 4 children were groomed into "the life" and have recently gotten out of "the life" but the lasting effects linger for all of them. Therapy and mannerisms that have an effect daily for them. The two children that were groomed were boys, and trafficked just like their mother was, and throughout the United States.

Matilda's break came when in one of the many states she was in, a detective recognized the signs of trafficking and took the initiative to help and find Matilda safety and resources. Because a person and law enforcement officer had the training and education to recognize and reach out.

I stress that it was a law enforcement officer as victims are trained, not taught, but trained not to trust law enforcement, social workers or anybody of authority. There is a power imbalance against the victim and a sense of mistrust of authority and belief they must comply for fear of reprisals.

I asked Matilda why, I a social worker and a male, was allowed into her apartment. Matilda's response, "I didn't know I had a choice."

This bill for adults will ensure that there will be more people knowing and recognizing the signs, these people will be in a place that may save a person from being trafficked and lose the life they should have had. For adolescents, education to help them recognize the signs of grooming for themselves or their friends will be another tool of safety and another barrier to prevent victims.

No one, I know, supports unfunded mandates and we should make sure this is adequately funded. I also feel teachers have been asked and burdened to do much more than educate our children and the provision for having nonprofit organization specializing in outreach, being survivor lead, and education will help.

As for training the predators through this, the ones I encountered had developed and, in a sense, mastered their grooming methods without any training. These predators have developed a sixth sense of who is a potential victim and how to pursue. It isn't always an abduction of the street; it can be a very methodical process using the many avenues available to them and the chosen victims. Matilda has told many times predators slang, tools of their trade and methods change to avoid detection and often. Training would need to be updated annually.

On behalf of "Matilda" and myself we ask this committee for a do pass on SB 2330.

I stand for questions.



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

To: House Education Committee
From: David Tamisiea, Executive Director
Date: March 10, 2025
Re: SB 2330 — Human Trafficking Education in Schools

The North Dakota Catholic Conference strongly supports common-sense legislation to fight against the scourge of human trafficking and the closely related crimes of prostitution and commercial exploitation of children. These intersecting crimes violate the dignity of the human person, the sanctity of human life, and fundamental rights of the human person.

All three of the last popes (John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have publicly decried human trafficking and called for its eradication and for the protection of its victims. Our two North Dakotan bishops, Bishop David and Bishop John Folda, have asked that addressing the problem of human trafficking be made a legislative priority.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked for labor or commercial sex acts worldwide – including right here in North Dakota. It can happen in any community, and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Human trafficking often is hidden and goes unidentified. It is a crime that flourishes in darkness.

According to the federal Department of Homeland Security, one of the most effective means of combatting human trafficking is being able to recognize the crime and identify its victims.

SB 2330 aims to address the problem of human trafficking by establishing a mandatory human trafficking education program for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education. This program would raise awareness about human trafficking, help students identify trafficked victims, give them knowledge about common risk factors, and enlist their help in preventing trafficking from ever happening.

We respectfully ask for a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Bill 2330.

103 South Third Street
 Suite 10
 Bismarck ND 58501
 701-223-2519
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 ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 2330

Page 1, line 1, after "Act" replace the remainder of the bill with "to provide for a legislative management study on how to implement the state's public interest in reducing sex trafficking, reducing sexually transmitted infections, reducing violence against prostitutes, reducing economic exploitation of prostitutes, and providing viable exit strategies for prostitutes."

Page 3, line 28, insert:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY – REDUCE SEX TRAFFICKING.**

During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying health and safety surrounding prostitution for the purpose of implementing the state's public interest to reduce sex trafficking, reduce sexually transmitted diseases, reduce violence against prostitutes, reduce economic exploitation of prostitutes, and provide viable exit strategies for prostitutes. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

Renumber accordingly.

Stacy Schaffer ~ Executive Director, 31:8 Project
318project.org
schaffer@318project.org
701.321.1061



In support of Senate Bill 2330

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stacy Schaffer, and I am the Founder and Executive Director of 31:8 Project, a Bismarck-based nonprofit dedicated to equipping and challenging society to proactively address human trafficking through education, advocacy, and awareness. I launched the nonprofit in 2015 but have been working in the anti-human trafficking field since 2006. Outside of 31:8 Project, I teach a human trafficking course at the University of Mary. 31:8 Project's work is accomplished through program areas including education, running the statewide Demand Reduction Program, and providing services to survivors of human trafficking through our mentorship program. In 2024, we were privileged to assist 62 survivors of human trafficking, 85% of whom were trafficked within North Dakota. Additionally, we delivered 166 trainings and presentations statewide to a diverse range of audiences including schools (5th to 12th grade), law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community organizations. This year, we will host our *5th Annual Bakken Human Trafficking Summit* in Bismarck, with the goal of educating over 400 professionals and community members.

Regarding this bill, 31:8 Project knows firsthand the importance of education on this topic as that was the initial reason we came into existence. Human trafficking education for youth is important because it can help prevent trafficking and protect young people. According to Shared Hope International, the average age in which someone is targeted regarding human trafficking is between 12 and 14. With appropriate education, we can empower youth to protect themselves and their peers, avoid situations that could lead to trafficking, and better understand what a healthy relationship should look like. Thank you all for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Heinert and members of the committee. My name is Lowell Hochhalter, and I am here today and stand in favor of **Senate Bill 2330**. I am here representing The LifeGuard Group, a non profit organization working to eradicate human trafficking in the United States, and the hundreds of survivors and victims that we have walked with in their journey to recovery.

In front of you today is a Bill that carries with it the potential to alter the lives of generations that come after us. Human Trafficking is not a new problem. For far too long, we as Americans, have ignored the red flags of sexual exploitation of children, and adults. We have turned a blind eye to the trafficking on individuals for sex domestic servitude, debt bondage, and slavery. And we have shrugged off the responsibility of aggressively protecting our children.

Educating students about human trafficking in middle and high school is essential. Knowledge empowers students to recognize the signs, understand the risks, and make informed decisions about their safety. Adolescents are at a critical age when they begin navigating more independent environments—both online and offline—and may become vulnerable to predators. By raising awareness early, schools can provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to protect themselves and others from exploitation. Furthermore, this education fosters empathy, helping students understand the global and local impact of human trafficking while encouraging a sense of social responsibility. Ultimately, early education equips students with the tools to proactively prevent trafficking and advocate for victims, contributing to safer communities and a more informed generation.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average age of an individual recruited into sex trafficking is between 12 and 14 years old. In the United States, 45% of victims are trafficked by a family member, while 40% are trafficked by someone with whom the victim has a close relationship. These dynamics create barriers for children caught in these horrific situations. Questions such as "Who can I tell?", "Will they believe me?", and "Will they help me?" often arise.

- 95% interacted with Law Enforcement
- 70% used the hospitality industry
- 88% sought healthcare
- 70% came in contact with an educator

Out of these listed industries, only ONE gives direct access to potential victims in a preventative manner: education.

70% of trafficking victims have stated that they came in contact with an educator during their time of exploitation. As a parent of four children myself, I understand the pressures this might add to an already stressed educational system. However, our current situation in which millions of trafficking victims in our country and hundreds of thousands of children being bought and sold for sex requires us to take a more aggressive/proactive approach to educate, empower and equip our students with the knowledge to protect themselves and their peers. In my 15 years in the anti-trafficking field, I have witnessed a growing need to engage students in this conversation. As a society, we must equip our kids with knowledge, empower them with solutions, and enable them to thrive in a world where they can feel safe. Since 2010, I have been involved in presenting school assembly programs aimed at achieving this goal. We sought to lift the dark veil that surrounds the realities facing kids across America, with

the belief that we could empower students to protect themselves and their peers. We have spoken to thousands of students, and in every school assembly, at least one student or staff member has identified a trafficking scenario. In 2013, 2014, and again in 2015, our team visited schools across our great state. In April 2014, we embarked on what we called "The Bakken Tour." We started our tour right here in the Capitol city of Bismarck, at Century High School. We spent the next week traveling across the state to Minot, Williston, and Dickinson, finishing in Mandan. We spoke in Public and Private schools alike. Our visit to Williston was particularly impactful. After our school assembly program, we waited, as is our common practice, until every student exited the gymnasium. It was not uncommon for students to come to our presenters, especially the woman who spoke as a survivor. There was a young lady that stood to away from everyone else. She didn't approach us until everyone had left. She said, "Thank you for being here today, it means a lot." We invited her to come back to the evening community rally, but she said she would not be able to. We urged her to really try and come. Her head dropped and your voice broke as she told us that she had to get home right after school. At 11 she lived in a trailer house by herself. Her father worked in the oil patch and lived at one of the man camps. Her father would sell appointments with his daughter to other men in the camp. That day, was the one chance that little girl had to expose the hell that she had been living with for so long. The school counselor took her and her journey of healing and recovery began.

It was Mahatma Ghandi who said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable." Kids are vulnerable, simply because they are kids. I urge this committee to send this Bill forward

with a resounding affirmation for approval. Thank you for your the opportunity to be in front of you today.

House Education Committee

Senate Bill 2330

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

March 10, 2025

Chairman Heinert, Madame Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck,
and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

I am a regional historian. Part of my interest in history has led me to study the history of sexual commerce both in this region and elsewhere.

Although the present version of Senate Bill 2330 is an improvement over its original version, I don't think I can support this in its present form.

Firstly, before the North Dakota State Legislature even considers applying this bill to tribal schools, I would strongly recommend that you first consult with tribal representatives on the subject.

Senate Bill 2330 is overly prescriptive and should not clutter the Century Code. Although school districts should be encouraged to teach children how to protect themselves from human traffickers, the Century Code should not mandate a specific way to teach children about this.

For example, before teaching children “the victim profiling tactics of human traffickers”, please consider whether you are teaching children the basics of how to become a pimp and take advantage of their classmates.

Okay – you know and I know that it is a vicious form of abuse for anyone to make an indecent proposal to pay a child to pull down his pants.

Yet, telling children about this horror, even in middle school, may risk providing bullies with evil ideas on how they can abuse other children.

SB 2330 talks of “the role of online computer activity and pornography”...

Pornographic sites have many roles. Not just one. One is to indoctrinate people into a false narrative about what sex is – and what it can be. Another is to function as an interactive pornographic pipeline to gradually turn civilian women out to become prostitutes in real life. Yet another is to make men become less interested in real life procreative sex than in watching more and more addictive pornography. Another is to provide erotic attention to young women, especially those who have been body shamed, who get too easily flattered by men who are willing to pay.

And that's just for starters.

We need to be very cautious about what we put into the Century Code.

Yet, one thing that Senate Bill 2330 does right is on page 2, line 16.

It refers to the “difference between human trafficking and prostitution”.

Yes, there is a difference, a difference our state should actually address.

Our state has a problem with human trafficking, including sex trafficking. If even one person get trafficked in our state, that is one person too many.

The State of North Dakota should not be putting the moral burden of fighting sex trafficking onto children in our schools when our state is hardly pulling its own weight in cracking down on sex trafficking.

While we should encourage people to become saints, we should recognize that arresting sex traffickers will require the cooperation of sinners.

Rather than assume that we necessarily know what the best strategy is for combating sex trafficking, we should have an interim study on the subject. This topic should be studied in depth, and we should be willing to listen to people who have a vested interest in stopping sex trafficking in its tracks.

Hopefully, the Legislature could eventually create an incentive structure to encourage people to report human trafficking to the proper authorities.

To this effect, here is a sweeping hoghouse amendment to Senate Bill 2330. I think we can all agree that human trafficking is wrong, and that this includes sex trafficking, so I hope that we can all get behind a major interim study to determine how sex trafficking can be stopped in its tracks.

The way this proposed study is worded is carefully designed to encourage prostitutes to come out of the shadows to present their own ideas on how sex trafficking can be stopped, because we really can't do it without them.

The proposed hoghouse amendment is up on your computer. If you amend Senate Bill 2330 with it, please give it **DO PASS** recommendation.

Otherwise, please give Senate Bill 2330 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

I am open for questions from this committee.

Written Testimony of Ilonka Deaton

Advocate, Survivor, and Educator

Director of Advocacy Jaco Booyens Ministries
In Support of SB 2330

March 10, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Ilonka Deaton. I am a survivor of child sex trafficking, an advocate, an educator, and an author. From the age of 12 to 18, I was trafficked within the music industry—an industry that should have been a place of creativity and dreams but became the setting of my deepest nightmare. Today, I stand before you not only as a survivor but as a voice for the millions of children who may never have the chance to tell their stories.

I submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 2330**, a bill that will ensure our schools provide critical trafficking prevention education to students, equipping them with the tools to protect themselves from manipulation, coercion, and exploitation.

I was 12 years old when I was lured into a situation I could not escape. My trafficker was someone my family trusted—an older man who manipulated me through fear, coercion, and shame. Like so many victims, I did not have the language to understand what was happening to me, nor did I know how to ask for help. No one had ever told me that trafficking did not always involve abduction or dark alleyways. No one had warned me that traffickers could be people we trust. No one had ever educated me on my right to say no, my right to be safe, and the warning signs of manipulation and grooming.

Had I been given this education in school, my story might have been different. I might have recognized the tactics used against me. I might have known that I was not alone. I might have had the words to cry out for help.

This is why **trafficking prevention education is not optional—it is critical.**

Why SB 2330 Must Be Passed:

- **Children Are the Target:** Traffickers prey on the vulnerable. Young people, especially those in middle and high school, are often targeted through social media, online gaming, and even through peers who have been recruited into trafficking rings. Without education, they are defenseless against these tactics.
- **Trafficking Does Not Look Like the Movies:** The reality is that most victims know their traffickers. Many are groomed over time, manipulated with gifts, promises, and threats. If students are not taught what grooming looks like, they will not recognize when it's happening to them or their friends.

- **Education Can Prevent Victimization:** Teaching children about boundaries, consent, digital safety, and the warning signs of trafficking empowers them to protect themselves. **Knowledge is a weapon that disrupts the trafficker's playbook.**
- **Teachers and School Staff Are First Responders:** Educators see children every day. With proper training, they can recognize the behavioral and psychological indicators of trafficking. If we equip teachers with this knowledge, we turn schools into places of intervention, not just education.
- **Survivors Need to Know There Is Hope:** One of the most devastating lies traffickers tell their victims is that no one will believe them. But when a survivor hears in a classroom that there are safe adults who will help them, that lie loses its power. Trafficking education does not just prevent—it rescues.

The cost of silence is too great. Without proactive education, we allow traffickers to remain one step ahead. We allow children to be exploited in plain sight. And we fail the most vulnerable among us.

That is why **I urge you to pass SB 2330.** This bill will give students the knowledge to protect themselves, train teachers to recognize the signs of trafficking, and ensure that every child has access to the resources they need to stay safe.

If even one child is saved because of this legislation, then it is worth it. But I believe we can do more than that. I believe we can stop trafficking before it starts.

I respectfully urge you to vote YES on SB 2330.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting our children.

Ilonka Deaton

Advocate, Speaker, Author

JBM



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2330

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
March 10, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in favor of Senate Bill 2330 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization believes that every person has inherent worth, and dignity given from God. Human trafficking, in its various forms, steals that worth and dignity away from the people who are victims of it. A person becomes dehumanized and is turned into a product, rather than a soul with worth, capability, and potential. They deserve to be loved. That feeling of love gets ripped away when people are bought and sold like a commodity.

Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime that violates a victim in many ways but can be well hidden. Human trafficking is commonly described as hidden in plain sight. In North Dakota, I would also go so far as to say that many people simply don't know what it is.

I can attest to that fact. Growing up, we heard about "stranger danger" in lower elementary school, but that was really it. I didn't know what human trafficking was until I was a junior at the University of Mary. I had the privilege of taking a night class on the issue of human trafficking through my studies in Criminal Justice. The class was taught by Stacy Schaffer from the 31:8 Project.

I can confidently say that class changed my life. All at once I was aware of a massive population of people who are slaves today. I learned so much about how these horrible crimes work, how the criminals twist the minds of their victims, the hopelessness of these situations, and so much more. These things absolutely gripped my soul, and I wondered why I was only learning about this now, as a junior in college.

I came out of that class believing that every single person on that campus needed to know about this horrible issue, and this bill accomplishes awareness before these students get to college, when it potentially could be too late. It has been a personal goal of mine ever since I finished that class to help people understand what is going on right under our noses. This bill, if

it becomes law, has the potential to affect not only the kids and faculty in our schools, but the entirety of our state. This education can and will change people's lives.

With anything, one of the first steps to fighting and addressing a problem is raising awareness. As a lifelong citizen of North Dakota, I can say that the average citizen does not know what human trafficking looks like. This bill directly addresses that issue and educates the citizens of our state who are arguably most vulnerable to this crime. Because of these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2330.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education committee.

I brought this bill to the legislature because **SB 2330** is an essential step in our fight against human trafficking and exploitation by bringing education and awareness in our schools.

As amended, this bill ensures that students in **grades 4 through 12** receive annual, evidence-based instruction on recognizing, preventing, and reporting human trafficking. By equipping young people with the knowledge to identify warning signs, we empower them to protect themselves and others from exploitation. **This legislation gets in front of the problem before the damage is done. Human trafficking is a crime that thrives in silence and misunderstanding. Almost all individuals who became victims did not recognize they were being trafficked until it was too late. Traffickers manipulate, groom, and exploit vulnerabilities, often posing as trusted friends, romantic partners, or even authority figures. They take advantage of the fact that most young people—and even adults—do not understand the warning signs of trafficking until they are trapped.**

Some of the DECEPTIONS TRAFFICKERS USE ON STUDENTS: If students don't know what human trafficking is, they won't know they are being trafficked.

1 **"This is love."** Groomers manipulate young minds, making them believe they are in a romantic relationship.

2 **"You can trust me, not your parents."** Traffickers create distrust between children and guardians.

3 **"You're mature for your age."** They prey on a child's desire for independence and validation.

4 **"This is normal."** Many victims don't realize they're being exploited because no one taught them what trafficking looks like.

North Dakota schools are on the front lines of this crisis and must equip students with the tools to recognize and report trafficking. I urge you to support legislation mandating age-appropriate human trafficking prevention education for grades 4-12, ensuring that:

1. Students learn the tactics traffickers use, so they can recognize red flags early.
2. Teachers and school staff receive training to identify and report signs of grooming.
3. Schools implement trauma-informed reporting systems to protect students at risk.
4. Prevention programs include digital safety education to address online trafficking tactics.
 - The average age of a trafficked child is 12-14 years old—this means traffickers are targeting students in middle and high school.
 - Online exploitation is increasing. 55% of minors report being contacted by strangers online inappropriately.
 - Schools are key to prevention. Teachers, coaches, and counselors are often the first line of defense for a child in danger.

By integrating human trafficking prevention into school curricula, we protect future generations from the same fate so many have suffered in silence.

The key provisions of this bill include:

1. **Age-Appropriate Education:** Instruction will be tailored to different grade levels, covering the tactics used by traffickers, the dangers of online exploitation, and the impact of human trafficking on individuals and communities.
2. **Community Engagement:** Resources will be made available for parents and guardians to strengthen the protective network around our children, ensuring they, too, understand the risks and warning signs.
3. **Flexibility in Implementation:** Schools will have the ability to collaborate with nonprofit organizations specializing in trafficking prevention, ensuring high-quality education and outreach. **Some institutions are concerned about the cost of implementation. That is why flexibility is built into the bill—schools can utilize free services from third-party organizations, and the structure of the program allows institutions to implement the education in a way that best fits their local needs. There are no time constraints, only information items that need to be dispensed.**

Human trafficking is not just a problem somewhere else—it is happening in North Dakota, and the most frequently targeted population is our Native American population, followed by the immigrants in our state. Traffickers do not care about state lines, rural or urban settings, or socioeconomic status. They target anyone they believe they can exploit. We must acknowledge this reality and take action to protect our most vulnerable. Raising awareness is one of the most effective tools we have in combating this crime. Education can prevent victimization before it happens.

The amendment includes a **\$48,000** initial appropriation to launch the program, reflecting our commitment to ensuring its effective implementation. If we can disrupt just a few instances of human trafficking it would be worth 100 times what any institution would have to spend on this education due to the damage human trafficking does to an individual's future life. This is a small but vital investment in the safety and future of North Dakota's children.

Members of the Education committee, this bill is about **prevention, protection, and empowerment**. We can stand up for the children and young people of our state, to ensure they have the knowledge they need to stay safe, and to send a clear message that North Dakota will not tolerate human trafficking in any form.

I urge your support for **Senate Bill No. 2330** and ask for a **do pass in committee** to protect our children and prevent human trafficking before it takes hold.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2330
3/25/2025

Relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students at public schools and tribal schools; and to provide an appropriation.

3:14 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Signs of Human Trafficking
- Committee action

3:15 p.m. Representative Novak proposed amendment. 25.0551.06000 #43787

3:24 p.m. Representative Marschall moved to adopt amendment.

3:24 p.m. Representative Jonas seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

3:32 p.m. Chairman Heinert proposed removing lines 2-20 on page 2.

3:32 p.m. Representative Marschall seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	N
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 12-2-0

3:34 p.m. Representative Hager moved a Do Pass and Amended.

3:34 p.m. Representative Marschall seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

Bill carrier: Representative Novak

3:36 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

March 25, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VG 3/25/25
1 of 3

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by

Senators Boehm, Myrdal, Paulson

Representatives McLeod, S. Olson, Rohr

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness
3 education for students at public schools, nonpublic schools, and tribal schools; and to provide
4 an appropriation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education.**

- 9 1. The board of a school district, ~~the governing board of a nonpublic school~~, and the
10 governing board of a school operated by a tribal government shall:
11 a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and
12 awareness education for students and ~~faculty~~ staff. The policy may include the
13 development of partnerships with community organizations, such as law
14 enforcement, churches, parent and family organizations, and civic organizations,
15 to offer education under this section. As used in this section, "human trafficking"
16 includes sex trafficking.
17 b. ~~Require schoolwide education addressing human trafficking and exploitation~~
18 ~~prevention and awareness for all students in grades four through twelve.~~

1 ~~e.~~ Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to
2 support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal
3 safety and grooming prevention.

4 2. The education under this section:

5 a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and
6 education on human trafficking and exploitation.

7 b. Must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and use evidence-
8 based practices.

9 ~~c. Must be provided annually to students.~~

10 ~~d. May include:~~

11 ~~(1) Definitions and the nature of human trafficking and exploitation;~~

12 ~~(2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;~~

13 ~~(3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state~~
14 ~~and across the United States;~~

15 ~~(4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;~~

16 ~~(5) The role of online computer activity and pornography;~~

17 ~~(6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following~~
18 ~~identification of a victim;~~

19 ~~(7) Information regarding:~~

20 ~~(a) Force, fraud, and coercion;~~

21 ~~(b) Grooming;~~

22 ~~(c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;~~

23 ~~(d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;~~

24 ~~(e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and~~

25 ~~(f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which~~
26 ~~industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and~~

27 ~~(g) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,~~
28 ~~including reporting information to the proper authorities.~~

29 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**

30 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

31 **EDUCATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,

- 1 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
- 2 the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and
- 3 exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
- 4 ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2330**

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0551.06001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2330 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0551.06000

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by

Senators Boehm, Myrdal, Paulson

Representatives McLeod, S. Olson, Rohr

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness
- 3 education for students at public schools and tribal schools; and to provide an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
- 6 and enacted as follows:

7 Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education.

- 8 1. The board of a school district, a non-public school, and the governing board of a school
operated by a tribal Government, shall:

- 9 a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and
- 10 awareness education for students and ~~faculty staff~~. As used in this section, "human
- 11 trafficking" includes sex trafficking.

- 12 b. ~~Require schoolwide~~ The policy may include the development of partnerships with
community organizations such as the police, church organizations, parent and family
organizations, and civic organizations to offer education addressing human trafficking and
exploitation prevention and awareness for all students in grades four through twelve.

- 13 c. Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to
- 14 support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal
- 15 safety and grooming prevention.

- 16 2. The education under this section:

- 17 a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and
- 18 education on human trafficking and exploitation.

- 19 b. Must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and use evidence-
- 20 based practices.

~~1 c. Must be provided annually to students.~~

2 d. May include:

3 (1) Definitions and the nature of human trafficking and exploitation;

4 (2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;

5 (3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state
6 and across the United States;

7 (4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;

8 (5) The role of online computer activity and pornography;

9 (6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following
10 identification of a victim;

11 (7) Information regarding:

12 (a) Force, fraud, and coercion;

13 (b) Grooming;

14 (c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;

15 (d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;

16 (e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and

17 (f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which
18 industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and

19 (8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation,
20 including reporting information to the proper authorities.

21 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -**

22 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS**

23 **EDUCATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
24 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
25 the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and
26 exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
27 ending June 30, 2027.

Legislative Report on Senate Bill 2330

A bill for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students at public schools and tribal schools; and to provide an appropriation.

Amy Boyd-Bolme, LMSW, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager, Youthworks

Stacy Schaffer, MPA, Executive Director, 31:8 Project

The purpose of this report is to propose an enactment of SB2330 and to request an additional appropriation of \$442,000 for the implementation of the Act.

The 31:8 Project and Youthworks have been leaders in North Dakota's anti-trafficking efforts since 2015 and have been integral members of the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force and the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission. The 31:8 Project and Youthworks currently provide education about human trafficking in public and private schools throughout North Dakota and are members of the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force and the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission and are well versed in the cost of providing training and education.

The current allocation of \$48,000 in SB2033 is not adequate to fulfill the requirements of the Act, which requires school boards and the governing board of tribal schools to:

- a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty.
- b. Require schoolwide education addressing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness for all students in grades four through twelve.
- c. Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal safety and grooming prevention.

To ensure the full vision of the Act can be fulfilled, this report proposes an additional appropriation to SB2330 of \$442,000 for a total of \$490,000 for the biennium. The attached budget prioritizes the development and implementation of a curriculum that is age appropriate for middle school and junior high school students. This proposal includes two full-time employees who will travel to all middle and junior high schools every other year to deliver the education. These professionals will also assist school boards with policy development regarding how to respond to any potential disclosures by students and to create and distribute educational materials to parents, as required in the Act.

The focus of this proposal is to ensure that the education is truly preventive in nature and reaches North Dakota youth before they experience exploitation/human trafficking. In our experience, and according to national data, the average age of entry into human trafficking is 14, so the efforts will be focused on middle and junior high school students. If every middle and junior high school student receives this curriculum, by the time they are high school students, they will have gotten it at least once.

SB 2330 Proposed Budget for July 2025 – June 2027

		Additional Notes
SOURCES OF SUPPORT		
ND State Legislature Appropriation	\$ \$490,000	
Other Funding	\$	31:8 Project and Youthworks will continue to search for other sources of funding that would support the program's continuation.
TOTAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT	\$ \$490,000	
EXPENSES / COSTS		
2 Full Time Employees	\$ 350,000	Two full-time employees, including salary, benefits, office space and supplies, will cost \$200,000 per year. Accounting for the time it will take to recruit, hire and onboard new employees, these costs are anticipated to start three months into year one, with year 1 costs totaling \$150,000 and year 2 costs totaling \$200,000.
Mileage	\$ 30,000	It is anticipated that the two employees will drive around 150 miles per week. Right now, mileage reimbursement is \$.70 per mile. It will cost around \$20,000 a year for two employees to travel the state for educational presentations. Calculating salaries starting in the fourth month of year one, we anticipate total travel costs to be around \$30,000.
Hotel	\$ 13,860	Given the geographical distance between schools in North Dakota, it is anticipated that employees periodically will have to stay at hotels. It is estimated that each employee will have three hotel stays a month. Using the per diem hotel rate of \$110, this cost is estimated to be \$990/month. Calculating costs at 5 months for year one and 9 months for year two, the estimated cost would be \$13,860.
Per Diem	\$ 25,200	Per Diem will be required on travel days. Per Diems are calculated below the federal per diem rate at \$50. Anticipating each employee has 12 travel days a month for a total of 36 days for three employees. Calculating costs for 5 months for year one and 9 months for year two, the estimated cost would be \$25,200.
Administrative Costs	\$ 60,000	The Executive Director of the 31:8 Project and the program manager at Youthworks would supervise the program and create the curriculum. At a salary of \$75,000 and given an allocation of 20% of their time being used, over the biennium the anticipated cost is \$60,000.
Printing	\$ 10,940	Anticipated costs of printed materials, which will cover ink, paper and sending projects to a printing company.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 490,000	

Youthworks, established in 1979 as Mountain-Plains Youth Services Coalition, has had an Anti-Trafficking program since 2015 and has been providing services and training since that time. Its mission is to ensure all youth have a safe place to belong and be heard. The 31:8 Project has been in existence since 2015. Its mission is to equip and challenge society to proactively address issues regarding human trafficking through education and awareness.

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2330

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2330
4/14/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

3:07 p.m. Chairman Beard opened the conference committee.

Members Present: Chairman Beard, Senators: Boehm and Gerhardt; Chairman Jonas
Representatives: Hauck and Heilman

Discussion Topics:

- Target grades 6 and 10
- Change to annually
- Available funding
- Possibly include grade 12
- Lyceum and/or classroom presentations

3:07 p.m. Representative Jonas led committee discussion regarding the House amendments.

3:18 p.m. Amy Boyd-Bolme, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager Youth Works, answered questions from the committee.

3:23 p.m. Stacy Schaefer, Director 31:8 Project, answered questions from the committee.

3:32 p.m. Amy Boyd-Bolme, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager Youth Works, answered questions from the committee.

3:45 p.m. Representative Jonas suggested going back to his committee with what was discussed and then meeting again.

3:56 p.m. Stacy Schaefer, Director 31:8 Project, answered questions from the committee.

4:00 p.m. Senator Boehm will work on a proposed amendment with the committee's suggestions.

4:04 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the conference committee hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2330
4/16/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to mandatory human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty at public schools and public institutions of higher education; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

3:13 p.m. Chairman Beard opened the conference committee.

Members Present: Chairman Beard, Senators: Boehm and Gerhardt; Chairman Jonas
Representatives: Hauck and Heilman

Discussion Topics:

- Include grades 6,10,12
- Change "evidenced base" to "best practice"
- Public schools and tribal schools

3:13 p.m. Senator Boehm introduced Amendment LC #25.0051.06003.

3:18 p.m. Senator Boehm moved Amendment LC #25.0051.06003.

3:18 p.m. Representative Heilman seconded the motion.

3:20 p.m. Roll call vote - motion carried 6-0-0.

3:20 p.m. Representative Hauck moved in place of the House Amendment LC #25.0551.06001 adopted by the House, the bill is amended by the conference committee Amendment LC #25.0551.06003.

3:20 p.m. Senator Gerhardt seconded the motion.

3:21 p.m. Roll call vote - motion carried 6-0-0.

3:21 p.m. Representative Jonas is the House bill carrier.

3:21 p.m. Senator Boehm is the Senate bill carrier.

3:22 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the conference committee hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2330

Introduced by

Senators Boehm, Myrdal, Paulson

Representatives McLeod, S. Olson, Rohr

In place of amendment (25.0551.06001) adopted by the House, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2330 is amended by amendment (25.0551.06003) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness
3 education for students at public schools and tribal schools; ~~and to provide an appropriation.~~

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education.**

- 8 1. The board of a school district and the governing board of a school operated by a tribal
9 government shall:
10 a. Adopt a policy regarding human trafficking and exploitation prevention and
11 awareness education for students and faculty. As used in this section, "human
12 trafficking" includes sex trafficking.
13 b. Require schoolwide education addressing human trafficking and exploitation
14 prevention and awareness for all students in grades ~~four through six, ten, and~~
15 twelve.
16 c. Offer to parents and legal guardians optional workshops or materials or both to
17 support the education of the child of the parent or legal guardian on personal
18 safety and grooming prevention.
19 2. The education under this section:

CO
7/16/25
10f2

- a. May be provided by a nonprofit organization specializing in outreach and education on human trafficking and exploitation.
- b. Must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and use ~~evidence-~~based best practices.
- c. Must be provided annually to students.
- d. May include:
 - (1) Definitions and the nature of human trafficking and exploitation;
 - (2) State laws regarding human trafficking and exploitation;
 - (3) Facts and statistics regarding human trafficking and exploitation in the state and across the United States;
 - (4) The victim profiling tactics of human traffickers;
 - (5) The role of online computer activity and pornography;
 - (6) Methods to identify a potential victim and actions to take following identification of a victim;
 - (7) Information regarding:
 - (a) Force, fraud, and coercion;
 - (b) Grooming;
 - (c) The complexities of abuse, indoctrination, and manipulation;
 - (d) The traits of a human trafficking victim;
 - (e) The difference between human trafficking and prostitution; and
 - (f) How human trafficking and exploitation demand is created and which industries influence human trafficking and exploitation; and
 - (8) Actionable steps to take against human trafficking and exploitation, including reporting information to the proper authorities.

~~SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS~~

~~EDUCATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$48,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of implementing human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.~~

SB 2330 041625 1519 PM Roll Call Vote

Amendment

SB 2330

Date Submitted: April 16, 2025, 3:19 p.m.

Action: Passed

Amendment LC #: 25.0551.06003

Description of Amendment: N/A

Motioned By: Boehm, Keith

Seconded By: Heilman, Matthew

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Beard, Todd	Yea
Sen. Boehm, Keith	Yea
Sen. Gerhardt, Justin	Yea
Rep. Jonas, Jim	Yea
Rep. Hauck, Dori	Yea
Rep. Heilman, Matthew	Yea

SB 2330 041625 1521 PM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

SB 2330**Date Submitted:** April 16, 2025, 3:21 p.m.**Recommendation:** In Place Of**Amendment LC #:** 25.0551.06003**Engrossed LC #:** N/A**Description:****Motioned By:** Hauck, Dori**Seconded By:** Gerhardt, Justin**House Carrier:** Jonas, Jim**Senate Carrier:** Boehm, Keith**Emergency Clause:** None**Vote Results:** 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Beard, Todd	Yea
Sen. Boehm, Keith	Yea
Sen. Gerhardt, Justin	Yea
Rep. Jonas, Jim	Yea
Rep. Hauck, Dori	Yea
Rep. Heilman, Matthew	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2330**

Your conference committee (Sens. Beard, Boehm, Gerhardt and Reps. Jonas, Hauck, Heilman) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0551.06001](#) adopted by the House, Engrossed SB 2330 is amended by amendment [25.0551.06003](#).

Engrossed SB 2330 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.