



1 SB 2311 – Required Health Curriculum

2 NDCEL Testimony in support

3 Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee. For the record my name is
4 Dr. Aimee Copas and I serve as the Executive Director for the North Dakota Council of
5 Educational Leaders representing all our ND school administrators, directors, and school leaders.

6 We come today in support of this bill in its amended 2000 form for this bill. This form came to
7 fruition through partnering with the Senate Human Services committee and helping them
8 understand how this bill could be best workable at the school district level. When it comes to
9 determining what should be taught in a course, there are really wonderful partnerships of all the
10 players when operating in their appropriate roles. There is absolutely no question that what we
11 are considering today with suicide prevention is an incredibly important topic – so how do we best
12 ensure that the correct material is getting to the students in a developmentally appropriate manner
13 – it is through the standards review process.

14 The process of determining what is taught: The state’s role is to define broadly what needs to be
15 covered (course areas) (this is wrapping your arms around education with good policy). NDDPI
16 is charged with setting standards in cooperation and partnership with our best health teachers.
17 School Boards are set with determining curriculum. Teachers are charged with executing those
18 standards and curriculum, and administrators are charged with assuring it and providing the needed
19 professional development to assist. This is a beautiful arrangement. We ask that we keep our roles
20 defined appropriately. We feel confident that emphasizing this work as a power-standard is the
21 best education related approach to having this curriculum addressed.

22 The ND Health Standards can be found here – last updated in 2018 contain 59 pages of well-done
23 health standards for grades K-12:

24 <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Safe%20%26%20Healthy/Health%20Standards%20Final%202018.pdf>
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for all students in North Dakota.

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler



1 The standards do cover the topics needing to be addressed in this bill- however, current
2 circumstances warrant emphasis in these standards is warranted. In doing so, it is important to
3 allow the process to work. If stakeholders feel that a stronger emphasis be put in an area, there is
4 a process to work on that. That is exactly what the amended version of this bill does. It is
5 appropriate and we'd ask this committee to support. Thank you for your consideration.

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler