



SYNTHESIS.EARTH

January 27, 2021

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1356

HB 1356 seeks to guarantee “patriotic youth organizations” a right to speak to public school students during school hours.

We have heard much testimony about the societal benefits of “patriotic youth organizations”. We have heard how they have “an outstanding record of developing youth of character with values that support our communities and state.” We have also heard how these organizations need access to schools to increase “awareness” about their organization and spur greater membership.

What we haven’t heard is that as of November 2020 more than 95,000 people have filed sex-abuse claims against the Boy Scouts of America. As a result, they have filed for bankruptcy.

Why is the state making a special law to help a disgraced and bankrupt organization recruit during school hours? No organization has a “right” to speak to public school students during school hours, especially those organizations that have been subject to over 95,000 sex-abuse claims. If anything, the “right” we should be considering is a right not to be indoctrinated by a “patriotic youth organization” that can’t seem to keep pedophiles out of their organization.

It is not the role of ND public schools to help private clubs increase their enrollment, no matter how many high profile North Dakotans get up and testify to their positive impact in their lives. We urge to you to move forward with a DO NOT PASS designation for HB 1356.

Sincerely,
Ryan Warner
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