

Testimony for HB1217

Rep. David Monson

Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee, for the record, I am Rep. David Monson of District 10 in northeastern ND. I introduced this bill with the knowledge that we have a teacher shortage in ND, and one of the critical shortage areas is in guidance counselors to serve our schools.

The idea for this bill originated with the superintendent of schools in Langdon which is in my legislative district. As the bill is written, it would simply speed up the licensure of individuals working toward their license in elementary and secondary guidance counselling by up to two years. They would still need to complete the coursework in a timely basis. Since I don't serve on an education policy committee anymore, and I am long retired from school administration, you or others in the field may have ideas to improve the bill. Feel free to make it better. Just know there is a need for more guidance counsellors, and this may help fill the gap.

I will stand for any questions, but I hope there are others either online or on your committee who can answer your questions better than I can.