

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1369
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 25, 2021

By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity

701-328-2244

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak on HB 1369.

I think we can all agree, parents and families have assumed a great deal more responsibility to assist and support their children's education during the pandemic than we have ever seen in recent history. NDDPI has seen and heard this, too.

At the same time, we realize that more is being asked of our public schools than ever before. This bill retains full funding to public schools, but also addresses the fact that parents and families may need additional support during these times.

If the legislature sees fit to provide this additional funding for the K-12 learning of our students, NDDPI stands ready to administer this program.

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.