



1 HB 1478 – Learn Everywhere

2 NDCEL Testimony

3 Chairman Owens, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the committee – for the record, my  
4 name is Dr. Aimee Copas. I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council of  
5 Educational Leaders representing all school leaders in ND.

6 I am here today in support of concepts within HB 1478. The concept promoted HB 1478 is positive  
7 in its nature. In 2017 with the passage of the Innovation Bill – some districts sought that  
8 application and their efforts were grounded in what is indicated in this bill. It is an understanding  
9 that learning most certainly can occur outside of the walls our school buildings and when well  
10 directed it has the potential to satisfy content standards. This bill allows for another pathway to  
11 quantify that learning.

12 It is important that this work is grounded in data, partnership with content specialist, and the entity  
13 or person(s) in that local community that is able to partner with the school. The concept about  
14 external partnerships, externships and internships are important to continue to supporting learning  
15 in North Dakota.

16 The one caution that we would have is surrounded in the actual need for this bill. NDCEL  
17 believes that opportunity to do this may already covered in law through the law passed in 2017  
18 **15.1-06-08.2**, however the need for this level of specificity in law can be determined by this  
19 committee and by the chambers.

20 Thank you for your time.

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