

Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota

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House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Darren Schimke, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota representing 415 professional firefighters across our great state. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1342.

The NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is an excellent retirement plan and the top choice among participating firefighters across the State. It truly assists with morale, recruitment and retention.

We do realize the importance of decreasing the unfunded liability within the plan as a long-term goal. To accomplish said goal, we also realize the need to increase employer/employee contributions. We believe the best route for increases are in the form of smaller, incremental increases as set forth within HB 1342 with re-evaluation every 2 years in conjunction with the Legislative session and an actuarial report.

With that being said, the PFFND requests the consideration of a Do Pass recommendation of HB 1342 from the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Thank you,

Darren Schimke