

## **Testimony for HB1388**

### **Presented by Stacy Duffield, Ph.D., President, North Dakota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NDACTE)**

I am testifying in regard to HB1388 to bring two recommendations for consideration by the Education Committee.

First, NDACTE requests membership on the kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council. NDACTE is a formal organization with membership by all 13 teacher preparation programs in North Dakota, including public, private, and tribal institutions. Teacher preparation is an essential part of K-12 education in the state. The educational experience of teachers and K-12 students will benefit from input and awareness of a teacher preparation representative on the council.

Second, we recommend adjustment of the language in Amendment 5 to be more inclusive and to ensure longevity of the bill. Currently, the teacher licensure, item 1 includes the following sentence, “The board shall ensure a candidate for licensure demonstrates competencies in the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading instruction based on the *science of reading*.” We request the sentence be revised to say, “The board shall ensure a candidate for licensure demonstrates competencies in the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading instruction based on *research-based best practices*.” Removing the “science of reading,” ensures the bill will stand the test of time and not need to be amended as research evolves understanding of best practice but encompasses the current movement titled the “science of reading.”

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations.