

TESTIMONY ON SB 2141
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stanley Schauer, Director in the Office of Assessment with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in favor of SB 2141. I will be speaking specific to Sections 6 through 8 on the bill and the proposed amendment that include edits as well as two additional Sections, 9 and 10.

The Section 6 amendment, as I understand it, is essentially cleanup language with the removal of “shall” and addition of “may” found in Section 7 of the bill. Currently the ACT or WorkKeys assessments are not included in the list of assessments a parent directive would apply to. Removing the requirement to take the assessment also removes the need for it to be listed in the parent directive section of ND Century Code.

As mentioned above, section 7 removes the requirement for grade 11 students to take the ACT. In tandem with other sections of the bill, it also adds broadening language around which assessment may be taken. I do want to mention that each high school student still needs a summative assessment that is aligned to state content

and achievement standards. Schools can select the ACT or the NDSA and this is mandated by 15.1-21-08. This aligns with our State ESSA plan as well as federal and state accountability. With how things currently stand, if a school opted to use the NDSA to meet this requirement, an ACT was also mandated.

Section 8 also deals with summative assessment, but in relation to students pursuing a general educational development diploma. This section contains language that specified the ACT as the only summative assessment that may be taken as well as changed the responsibility of cost from the school district to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The first edit of the proposed amendment deals with repealing 15.1-21-17, this area of NDCC refers to annually administered interim assessments in school districts. This change also relates to Sections 9 and 10. Section 9 is the actual repealing language and Section 10 refers to a study on interim assessment systems. The study would have collaboration between education stakeholders and the K12 Coordination Council. Benefits, cost, data standardization, compatibility with SLDS, and other aspects will be looked at from two different systems: local and statewide. Many innovations occurring in the assessment world revolve around interim assessments. I feel strongly about the purpose and use of interim assessments, and also feel that they are a great starting point to explore innovative and new ways to measure students and schools more effectively. The study and following implementations will hopefully

help strengthen this level of assessments in North Dakota. It is possible, after a plan is set forth, the language being repealed would be replaced. The two other changes brought forth in the proposed amendment removes the cost responsibility from the Superintendent of Public Instruction that are currently in Section 7 and Section 8 that deal with summative assessments.

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