



January 26, 2021

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Carrie O'Rourke and I represent **yes. every kid.** We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student receives an individualized education. Today, I write in support of **SB 2196 – Establishment of North Dakota Competency Framework.**

We applaud the efforts this body has taken to embrace bold and positive reforms for students and families which propels North Dakota forward by empowering school leaders with the flexibility to implement innovative programs and learning models. To succeed in today's dynamic global economy, young people need different skills that the current system was not designed to foster.

This legislation will enable North Dakota students to receive an education that is responsive and flexible to their individual learning styles and needs. Rather than confining students to a one-size-fits-all system, North Dakota families will be able to ensure their children receive an education that's customized and adaptable. If we've learned anything from the learning disruptions that families, student and educators have faced in the last year, it is the need to lean in and embrace student-centric solutions that celebrate the diversity of our student population.

SB 2196 will provide the opportunity for a wide variety of experiences and educational methods that has the potential to transform a student's life – allowing all students to realize their full potential to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my supportive testimony, and most of all, I applaud this committee and the state for putting the needs of students first and reimagining what is possible. This legislation will guarantee North Dakota is national leader in creating an education system built around the needs of every student.



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