



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

Testimony Before the House Education Committee

HB 1337

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, president of North Dakota United. I rise today in opposition to HB 1337 and to urge a do not pass recommendation for HB 1337.

North Dakota United supports all schools and school districts in their efforts to continually improve school security and safety measures. Nothing is more important than ensuring safe working and learning spaces for teachers, learners, staff, and visitors to our schools. Having visited schools all across North Dakota, I can tell you that school safety is front of mind as K-12 learning communities do their important work.

However, requiring school districts to allocate from five (5%) to fifteen (15%) percent of a school district allocation is an infringement on school board authority in the management resources entrusted to them. Imagine a district whose state allocation is \$5,000,000. Should HB 1337 pass, the imagined district would be required to dedicate as much as \$750,000 or as much as \$250,000 should they adopt a policy to allow conceal carry on school property.

While we are not opposed to the state helping with the cost of keeping our schools safe, we find the provisions of HB 1337 to be overly proscriptive. We believe that important decisions like those related to school safety are best left to officials who best understand the needs of their districts, specifically, locally elected school boards.

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, I will conclude my remarks and urge a **do not pass** recommendation for HB 1337.