



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

HB 1194
Opposition
1/26/23 HNA

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HB 1194 – Testimony in Opposition
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Porter– Chairman
January 26, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 150-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in opposition to HB 1194.

I know of a situation that a veteran of military service suffering from PTSD and experiencing a personal crisis was armed and reportedly headed to a school. Thankfully law enforcement was able to intervene, and potential tragedy was averted. I, like you, have the highest regard for our men and women of the military and have had many family members serve in our nation's military services. I also was proud to support the military recruiters and welcomed them to the schools I served.

NDSOS and its member schools supports the current provision in NDCC 62.1-02-05 and the Armed First Responder section of NDCC 62.1-02-14. We believe these two provisions accurately reflect those that are lawfully permitted to carry a firearm in a school or at a school sponsored event and provides a provision for schools to add an armed first responder as outlined in 62.1-02-14.

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The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.