

1 SB2284

2 Valley City Public Schools – Josh Johnson, Superintendent

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education
4 Committee.

5 In 2018, I was appointed to the State Board of Public Education
6 and State Board of Career and Technical Education in
7 representation of seven counties in eastern North Dakota. As the
8 school superintendent at Valley City Public Schools, I accepted
9 this appointment with great pride and looked forward to the
10 opportunity to represent our students, educators, parents, and
11 school districts with important decisions related to public
12 education all across North Dakota. Over the past five years, the
13 boards for both Public Education and CTE have made several
14 critical decisions impacting education. A few of these decisions
15 include the reorganization of Williams County #8 and Williston
16 #1, the reorganization of the Hope-Page School District, the bi-
17 annual oversight and auditing of our regional education
18 associations (REA's), the adoption of the new state learning
19 continuum, and the selection and management of federal dollars

1 related to the CTE Capital Projects Grant. Over the course of my
2 time serving on both of these boards, I've appreciated the hard
3 work, research, and the difficult decisions that come with being a
4 member on the State Board of Public Education and State Board
5 of Career and Technical Education.

6 In the past five years, the appointments to the State Board of
7 Public Education have changed. When I began in 2018, four
8 school superintendents were serving and representing the
9 constituents of North Dakota. As of summer, 2022, I became the
10 only school superintendent on the State Board of Public
11 Education. While I do respect and appreciate the perspectives of
12 our two new board members, the absence of school
13 superintendents has created a void that cannot be filled with
14 individuals out of the profession. As a school superintendent in
15 North Dakota, we are responsible and engaged with matters
16 related to education. This includes annexations, REA's, career
17 and technical education, the goals of the K-12 Coordination
18 Council, and state education strategic plan. I strongly believe this
19 high level of institution knowledge, engagement, and

1 representation is important and must be included on the State
2 Board of Public Education.

3 Chairman Elkin and members on the Senate Education
4 Committee, I offer my support for amendment 1 of SB 2284. As
5 the only school superintendent on the State Board of Public
6 Education, I think it is critical that this bill receive a do-pass.

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