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Testimony Before the House Education Committee
HB 1472
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee, I am Nick Archuleta, president of ND United, and I rise today to oppose HB 1472 and to encourage a ***do not pass*** recommendation on this proposed legislation.

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee, HB 1472 would enshrine into statute the permission structure to establish microschools in North Dakota. While we do not shy away from a debate regarding the virtues and shortcomings of microschools, or any schools for that matter, HB 1472 should be a non-starter for several reasons contained in the bill.

Specifically:

- HB 1472 allows for anyone with only a HS diploma to be a teacher of record at a microschool.
- HB 1472 exempts teachers from criminal background checks.
- HB 1472 exempts teachers from teacher certification.
- HB 1472 exempts microschools from any law or rule related to fire codes, health codes, building codes, and food service regulations.

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee, all these exemptions for microschools unnecessarily put children at risk. Passing this proposed piece of legislation would be reckless and a step backward from what we need to ensure child safety. For these reasons I respectfully urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation for HB 1472.

With that, I conclude my testimony and will stand for any questions.