



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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1 Testimony in Opposition to HB 1472

2 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee

3 My name is Michael Heilman, I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Small Organized Schools. The
4 140+ schools that are members of NDSOS stand in opposition to HB 1472, which seeks to provide
5 provision in statute for the establishment of micro-schools.

6 I represent the 16 current micro schools that exist in the state of North Dakota. Schools like Menoken,
7 Fort Yates #4, Lone Tree #6, Sweet Briar, Kensal, Zeeland, Litte Heart, Sterling, Naughton, Manning, Ft.
8 Ranson, Horse Creek, and Marmarth. Schools that struggle to exist due to funding shortfall and frankly
9 that some might suggest are too small to exist. Yet, they are all public schools that the local elected
10 school boards are working to maintain for the benefit of the children and the communities they serve.
11 These small public schools must follow all the rule and regulations that are set forth by the state and the
12 department of public instructions. Rules and statutes that are designed ensure the safety and well-being
13 of our children. Rules like

- 14 1. Teachers must be certified by the Educational Standards and practices board.
15 2. Criminal background checks for employees
16 3. Childcare and facilities rules like fire codes, health codes and food services regulations.
17 4. All other statues and rules of the State of ND and DPI that govern our schools.

18 These schools and the additional 20 that are just slightly larger would welcome the enrollment of any
19 child. This law simply is not necessary, will divert funding from our current public schools that follow
20 state statues, and in turn fund home education with public dollars.

21 NDSOS urges a do not pass on HB 1472.

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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.