

HOUSE BILL No. 1164

Senate Education Committee

March 10, 2025 10AM

Chair: Senator Beard

Introduction and Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 1164

House Bill 1164 was drafted at the request of the North Dakota Association of School Psychologists. The bill changes the “EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE” label within North Dakota special education identification to “AN EMOTIONAL DISABILITY”. The requested change would eliminate the negative connotation attached to the word disturbance.

Additionally, the bill changes the label of “A HEARING IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING DEAFNESS” to “BEING DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING”. This change aligns the North Dakota label with federal terminology.

According to information supplied by the North Dakota Association of School Psychologists, the changes were vetted with various stakeholder groups including parents, teachers, administrators, the Department of Public Instruction, and others.

Mr. Chair and Senate Education Committee Members, this concludes my testimony in support of House Bill 1164. I would appreciate your favorable consideration of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25