

1 North Dakota School Study Council Neutral Testimony to HB 1222 –  
2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1222. I am  
5 writing to provide neutral testimony on HB 1222 concerning the recitation of  
6 the Pledge of Allegiance in schools. While we are in favor of ensuring that  
7 students have the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, I would  
8 like to highlight logistical concerns regarding implementation at the high  
9 school level.

10 Many high schools operate with staggered start times and have students  
11 who arrive and leave throughout the day due to home school programs,  
12 concurrent enrollment courses, and other specialized scheduling. Ensuring  
13 that all students have the opportunity to recite the pledge under these  
14 conditions may not be feasible.

15 For this reason, we would support an amendment to HB 1222 exempting  
16 high school students from the requirement of reciting the Pledge of  
17 Allegiance. This amendment would allow for a consistent and practical  
18 implementation while still upholding the intent of the bill.

19 Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to  
20 provide input on this matter and am happy to answer any questions or  
21 provide further information as needed.

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23 Dr. Paul Stremick