



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

Testimony Before the Senate Workforce Development Committee
HB 1220
Friday, March 21, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Committee, for the record my Name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I am here today to offer testimony in opposition to HB 1220, and to urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation for this proposed legislation.

Members of the Committee, while it is true that North Dakota and the nation are experiencing a shortage of teachers and individuals choosing teaching as a profession, ND United believes that HB 1220, while well intentioned, may exacerbate the situation. There is an art and a science to teaching and the provision in HB 1220 that ends the requirement that students would no longer be required to obtain general education credits undermines the acquisition of key skills that effective teachers need and value once they are in the field. English, Science, Math, the Social Sciences, and the humanities help build a rock-solid foundation on which effective teaching careers are built. In short, we are concerned that creating accelerated degrees in the field of education will undermine the quality of teacher preparation programs and cause teachers to be placed in classrooms unprepared for the challenges of a modern classroom. Inadequately prepared teachers tend to leave the profession sooner than well trained educators and are less effective during the time they are in the teaching. That is not good for them, the profession, and especially not for the kids and communities they serve.

Of course, Chairman Wobbema and Committee members, I cannot speak for other sectors of the workforce this bill seeks to help, but if this bill is to include future educators, I would urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation.

