

# NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

## Minutes of the

### EDUCATION FUNDING AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 16, 2012  
Harvest Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative RaeAnn G. Kelsch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Members present:** Representatives RaeAnn G. Kelsch, Craig Headland, Bob Hunsakor; Senators Dwight Cook, Tim Flakoll, Joan Heckaman, Gary A. Lee

**Member absent:** Representative Bette Grande

**Others present:** See [Appendix A](#)

**It was moved by Senator Flakoll, seconded by Senator Lee, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the July 26, 2011, meeting be approved as distributed.**

#### CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT IN YOUTH ATHLETICS

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Dr. Jeffrey Lystad, Sanford Orthopedics Sports Medicine, Fargo, presented testimony regarding concussion management in youth athletics. Dr. Lystad said he was first trained as a physical therapist. He said he is board certified in emergency medicine and specializes in orthopedics and sports medicine. He distributed a concussion factsheet ([Appendix B](#)) and a document ([Appendix C](#)) summarizing concussion legislation in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. He said North Dakota's legislation applies to children who are in high school. He said it does not cover community soccer programs or junior hockey programs. He said the organizers and coaches of such community programs are becoming more aware of issues related to concussions and concussion management in youth athletics.

Dr. Lystad said the legislation requires that coaches and officials receive biennial training. He said they are given a 30-minute presentation and a quiz. He said parents are given written materials, and the parents and the participating child must sign a document acknowledging that they have received the material. He said the most important part of concussion management is removing a child from practice or play and not letting that child return if there is any doubt about the child having received a concussion.

Dr. Lystad said there is a lot of misinformation about concussions. He said we used to think that if a child had a little headache, there is nothing to worry about and the child should just "tough it out." He said we now know that younger children are even more significantly impacted by concussions, and we also

know that receiving a second concussion before fully recovering from the first concussion is very detrimental. He said references to mild traumatic brain injuries are the same as references to concussions.

Dr. Lystad said people often assume that a concussion results in a loss of consciousness, and therefore, if there is no loss of consciousness, there has not been a concussion. He said that is false. He said there is a loss of consciousness in only about 10 percent of the cases. He said, even in those cases, the loss of consciousness is very short. He said often there is also a very short period of amnesia.

Dr. Lystad said the other misconception is that concussions occur only when an individual is hit in the head. He said that too is not true. He said any sudden jarring movement can result in a concussion. He said sometimes the contact is very dramatic, and other times it can be very subtle. He said we do not know why some contacts result in concussions and others do not.

Dr. Lystad said after a concussion there is generally a functional disturbance, as opposed to a physical disturbance. He said that is why concussions do not appear on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT) scans. He said an individual's symptoms also tend to get worse while the brain uses its extra energy to recover. He said it is very important that children receive proper medical care during the first two weeks and change what they normally do and how they normally do it.

Dr. Lystad said as an emergency medicine physician, he makes a determination regarding the necessity of an MRI or a CT scan. He said not everyone who is injured needs such a procedure. However, he said, if a patient is or was unconscious for a prolonged period, or is vomiting, is having seizures, or does not recognize people or places, he considers those to be red flags and tends to order a scan. Likewise, he said, not every child who receives a concussion needs to go to the emergency room.

Dr. Lystad said 3.8 million individuals receive concussions each year. He said girls receive concussions more frequently than boys. He said perhaps this is because their neck muscles are not as strong as boys' neck muscles. He said the other reason could be that boys tend to underreport such injuries. He said we are familiar with concussions in sports, such as hockey, soccer, and football. He said

he has also seen concussions in athletes participating in track, swimming, and cheerleading.

Dr. Lystad said helmets help to prevent skull fractures, but not concussions. He said when one's helmet comes to a stop, one's brain still keeps going. He said with the better helmets, individuals tend to have a greater sense of invincibility.

Dr. Lystad distributed a document ([Appendix D](#)) containing a sports concussion algorithm, a return-to-play protocol, an office-based concussion evaluation, sideline instructions, office-based instructions, and instructions that schools must follow in arranging accommodations for students with concussions.

Dr. Lystad said there are four symptom categories applicable to concussions--physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep. He said the physical symptoms include headaches, nausea, vomiting, balance problems, dizziness, vision problems, fatigue, light and noise sensitivity, and tingling or numbness. He said the cognitive symptoms include feeling mentally foggy, feeling slow, having difficulty concentrating, and having difficulty remembering. He said the emotional symptoms include irritability, sadness, nervousness, and greater emotionalism. He said the final category pertains to sleep issues--drowsiness, sleeping more or less than usual, or having trouble falling asleep. He said during the first few days after a concussion, the physical symptoms are overwhelming. Thereafter, he said, the other symptoms start to be noted.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Lystad said there is no reporting mechanism in place.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Lystad said parents and coaches have been very cooperative, especially once they understand the injuries and the risks. He said sometimes there might be issues of a parent trying to doctor shop but, generally, through education efforts this can be avoided.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Lystad said doctors and trainers do not talk to the media about what happened to a child or about the child's condition. He said a coach is not under the same restriction. He said high school students or their parents are often asked to sign a waiver allowing their coaches, athletic trainers, and doctors to talk to each other about the child.

In response to a question from Senator Lee, Dr. Lystad said he hopes that each school district will designate a health care provider. He said Sanford Health is trying to provide concussion management classes to the state physician assistants and increasing communication with other medical providers. He said other area providers will have to take some initiative and develop their own programs for their own areas. He said neuropsychologists, psychiatrists, neurologists, physical therapists, and speech therapists, among others, are all available to help.

In response to a question from Representative Hunskor, Dr. Lystad said having the school district's health care provider communicate with a student's doctor is invaluable.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Dr. Lystad said while national standards do apply to the diagnosis and treatment of concussions, the standards are not as prescriptive as one would think.

In response to a question from Senator Heckaman, Dr. Lystad said there is a 30-minute class with a test thereafter that is available to anyone. He said it is not a difficult undertaking for anyone. He said even if a local golfer gives golf lessons to children for compensation, that individual would benefit from the class.

Senator Flakoll said today's athletes are bigger, faster, and stronger. He said he wonders if there are equipment or surface modifications that help to reduce the occurrence of concussions. He said even major penalties for dangerous moves during games could slow down concussions.

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Mr. Brad Reed, certified athletic trainer, said the Sanford concussion factsheet is given to parents of student athletes at the beginning of each school year to help with the parents' understanding of concussions and appropriate treatment. He distributed the "Sanford Sports Concussion Program Pocket Card: Coaches" ([Appendix E](#)). He said coaches are given these flashcards to enhance their understanding of the signs and symptoms of a concussion. He said the cards also list an action plan that addresses removal from practice or play, evaluations, and parental notification as well as the signs or symptoms that require medical intervention.

Mr. Reed said the athletic trainers can do sideline evaluations based on the sports concussion algorithm included in [Appendix D](#). He said once the child's parent is contacted, the athletic trainer reviews with the parent any signs and symptoms for which the parent should watch in the ensuing 24 hours and makes certain that the student does not drive himself or herself home.

In response to a question from Representative Headland, Mr. Reed said a number of years ago people were told that, in the case of a concussion, the patient should not be allowed to go to sleep. He said there was a fear that the patient would go into a coma and not awaken. He said today we know that the brain needs to rest. He said this is done by removing bright lights, loud sounds, and other stimuli.

Dr. Lystad introduced Mr. Ty Syverson, an eighth grade student who received a concussion while playing youth hockey. Dr. Lystad also introduced Ms. Deb Syverson, Ty's mother and trauma coordinator at Sanford Health. He said no one knew that Ty had a concussion.

Mr. Syverson said after a game his left elbow and tailbone began to ache, and after a couple of days, he began to have headaches. He said, a few days later,

he was feeling a little bit better and returned to playing hockey. He said his headaches and confusion came back, and he felt slow and foggy.

Ms. Syverson said she thought this was not normal. She said Ty had a cold, so she kept him home from school for a couple of days. She said the day he returned to school, his condition deteriorated rapidly.

Dr. Lystad said, at this point, a patient such as Ty is given a physical examination. He said eyes provide an excellent clue regarding a patient's condition. He said the physician checks the pupils and looks for broken blood vessels. He said often children with concussions cannot track and focus on a moving object. He said ears are also examined to look for signs of bleeding. He said a patient's neck, spine, arms, and legs are examined, and then the patient is given a neural examination. He said a physician will look at the facial nerves and evaluate reflexes in major muscle groups and balance.

Dr. Lystad said, in week two, Ty was still having headaches. He said Ty was in school but still having issues. He said he was improving, but slowly. He said he recommended partial attendance at school.

Dr. Lystad said teachers need to understand that in order for a student with a concussion to return to normalcy, the student must be given a reduction in schoolwork, makeup work, and homework. He said a student with a concussion needs frequent breaks. He said it is also important that the student be allowed to go home and rest. He said a student with a concussion will not be participating in band class any sooner than that student will be in physical education class. He said in Ty's case it took about three weeks to improve significantly, and by the fourth week, Ty's tests were back to normal and his parents said he was doing better. He said we do not want students to return to their normal school routine too soon. He said they have to be sufficiently recovered.

Dr. Lystad said if Ty gets a second concussion, the recovery period will be longer. He said that is the point at which there needs to be some discussion with the parents regarding whether continued participation in contact sports is worth the risk.

In response to a question from Senator Cook, Dr. Lystad said Ty could have recovered without the help of a medical professional, but his symptoms would have been around for a considerably longer period.

Ms. Syverson said Sanford Health sees concussion patients from a variety of causes, including car accidents and falling off grain bins. She said it is important that medical professionals in the small towns recognize the symptoms of concussions and understand appropriate treatment protocols.

In response to a question from Senator Cook, Dr. Lystad said concussion legislation empowers medical professionals to refuse to let a student play. He said this could be addressed at the local level, without having a one-size-fits-all state version.

In response to a question from Representative Hunsakor, Dr. Lystad said Sanford Health has a presence in a variety of smaller communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Reed said there is a document called a transfer of care form. He said this allows a doctor from a visiting team to assume liability for its own players, rather than the organization sponsoring the event.

Mr. Paul Ferrie, President, Fargo Athletics, Inc., said that organization has 1,500 participants and 300 coaches. He said all of its coaches are volunteer parents. He said each year there is a mandatory coaches' meeting at which they discuss concussions, dehydration, etc. He said the officials must take a concussion test. He said, this year, all of the parents had to take an information sheet about concussions, read it, and sign it. He said there are athletic trainers at all the games.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Ferrie said they try to have one athletic trainer for at least every two playing fields.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, Project Director, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Rural Health, Grand Forks, presented testimony regarding concussion management in youth athletics. She said she manages the traumatic brain injury state partnership grant and the North Dakota traumatic brain injury vocational rehabilitation project. She said she works to provide services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and to provide awareness. She said legislation was introduced during the last several legislative sessions to implement a brain injury registry. She said North Dakota used to have such a registry. However, she said, it was federally funded, and the funding went away. She said Minnesota has a wonderful brain injury registry.

Ms. Quinn said it is important to have rural physicians understand the treatment protocols for concussions. She said education needs to be given to health care providers. She said this effort has been very focused on athletics. She said teachers and special education personnel need to provide accommodations for these students. She said they need to be educated about the needs of a student returning after a concussion. She said brain injury is considered a federally protected disability. She said 504 plans are already set up to evaluate a student's needs.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Ms. Quinn said Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota has data regarding the number of traumatic brain injuries in the state. She said, due to coding issues, it is not always easily accessible.

Dr. Dawn Mattern, Trinity Health, Minot, presented testimony regarding concussions in youth athletics. She said she is a family physician and also works in sports medicine. She said in Minot she works with six athletic trainers. She said other towns that are served

medically by Minot do not have athletic trainers. She said it is very important that medical professionals be educated about concussions. She said the evolution of concussion care has been rapidly changing.

Dr. Mattern said not every concussion is evaluated by an athletic trainer or a physician. She said she suspects that a great many are undercounted. She said we should use the law that is in place and encourage education for all groups. She said we talk about expanding this law to include youth athletics, such as a local hockey club. She said education about the nature and risks of concussion is equally important for the local rodeo program or dance studio.

Dr. Mattern said athletic trainers are well-versed in concussion management. She said all physicians and all other health care providers need to be up to speed on new developments in the area of concussion management.

Mr. Lorell Jungling, Activities Director, Mandan School District, said education will help to reduce the number of instances in which parents doctor shop and pressure school personnel to let their children play. He said he would prefer that the doctor of the organization sponsoring an athletic event be the ultimate decisionmaker regarding a student's ability to return to play after a concussion. He said when parents sign off on a concussion information form, they are verifying that they understand concussions, not that they will follow the requisite treatment protocol.

Representative Kelsch said if a parent presents a medical authorization indicating that the child has been examined after an injury and is deemed fit to play, liability for that determination falls on the physician.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Mr. Matthew B. Strinden, Education Improvement Division Manager and Assistant Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, said the Professional Development Advisory Committee developed a mechanism by which school districts could report their professional development activities electronically and provide guidance to school districts, in order to ensure that quality programs were being delivered. He distributed the *Standards for Professional Learning* ([Appendix F](#)). He said Dr. Wayne Sanstead, Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, has endorsed the standards. He said the standards should drive professional development activities in the school districts. He distributed the *Model Core Teaching Standards* developed by the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium ([Appendix G](#)) and the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium standards ([Appendix H](#)).

Mr. Strinden said it is important to distinguish between professional development for teachers and staff development. He said the first pertains to teachers as individuals with respect to their own

improvement needs. He said staff development is a process to improve schools and school districts.

Mr. Strinden said this often involves work with a variety of individuals in their collective capacities.

Mr. Strinden said the Superintendent of Public Instruction has appointed a committee to address teacher and administrator evaluations. He said the Department of Public Instruction is excited about improving the education of all students by focusing on quality educators in the classroom.

## APPLICATIONS FOR NORTH DAKOTA TEACHER LICENSURE FROM INDIVIDUALS LICENSED IN OTHER STATES

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Ms. Rebekah Middlestead, Ellendale, presented testimony ([Appendix I](#)) regarding her application to the Education Standards and Practices Board for North Dakota teacher licensure. Ms. Middlestead said she has a baccalaureate degree in elementary education from a North Dakota college and a master's degree in educational technology from Dakota State University, Madison, South Dakota. She said South Dakota certified her to teach educational technology in kindergarten through grade 12. She said the Education Standards and Practices Board refused to license her in this state until she completed a methods of teaching business course and engaged in five weeks of student teaching at the grade 7 through 12 level. She said she began teaching elementary school in 1991, has taught in grades 7 and 8, and has even served as an adjunct business professor at a college.

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Mr. Joey Kolosky, Mandan, presented testimony ([Appendix J](#)) regarding his pursuit of teacher licensure in North Dakota. Mr. Kolosky said he holds a baccalaureate degree in art and a master of arts degree in special education and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at the University of North Dakota (UND).

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Kolosky said he contacted the Education Standards and Practices Board regarding his qualifications for licensure and was told by a staff member that he could be a consultant, but he could not work directly with students. He said most school districts want individuals who can actually teach, not just consult. He said he has not reapplied under the statute that became effective in August 2011 as a result of House Bill No. 1270. He said it appears that now he is qualified to get a license to teach special education. He said he would like to get an endorsement to teach art.

At the request of Chairman Kelsch, Ms. Janet Welk, Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board, presented testimony ([Appendix K](#)) regarding applications to the Education Standards and Practices Board for North Dakota teacher licensure.

Ms. Welk said the Education Standards and Practices Board has begun to discuss the evaluation of work experience in lieu of student teaching. She said national accreditation standards for teacher education programs require supervised classroom experience at the level of preparation for a student's content area.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Ms. Welk said Ms. Middlestead has a North Dakota elementary education license and a master's degree in educational technology. She said Ms. Middlestead used her graduate courses to obtain an endorsement. She said House Bill No. 1270 concerns a transcribed major and a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. She said the Education Standards and Practices Board accepts regularly approved bachelor's or master's degrees but does not accept endorsements from other states. She said what North Dakota issues, based on two courses from UND and three courses from North Dakota State University, is clumped together and called an endorsement. She said because it is not from a regular program that meets all of the university's standards and policies, albeit it is based on a regular program, it stops at the border. She said each state has authority for its own education and so the board does not do endorsements. She said the board does do transcripts and issues licenses based on transcripts. She said the board has never set up standards for alternative programs. She said North Dakota does not have the need for alternative programs because we graduate enough people to meet our demand.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Ms. Welk said Mr. Kolosky would be able to work with exceptional children, and he could be hired to work with a child having any kind of a disability. She said the Education Standards and Practices Board needs to determine whether it will drop the student teaching requirement which is part of accreditation. She said House Bill No. 1270 refers to a regular program and requires student teaching.

In response to a question from Representative Headland, Ms. Welk said national accreditation provides a national standard. She said it helps our students when they leave North Dakota and keeps our programs at a level so that our students are sought after by other states. She said other states seek our students because they come from nationally accredited schools. She said because we are a small state, we adopted the national standards for use on those institutions in North Dakota that are not nationally accredited. She said all of the state's institutions are therefore reviewed on the same standards.

Representative Headland said we are not helping students from small school districts if, because of national accreditation, we cannot hire qualified North Dakota mathematics teachers and we cannot hire teachers from other states just because they do not have supervised student teaching experience.

Ms. Welk said when a person engages in student teaching, that effort is evaluated by both the institution and the supervising teacher. She said people fail student teaching. She said a student can go through his or her entire program and not pass student teaching.

Representative Kelsch said if an individual has been successfully teaching for five years in another state, it is counterintuitive to require that individual to go through a student teaching segment in this state before being licensed.

Ms. Welk said the Education Standards and Practices Board is currently discussing how much time teaching in another state would be required before North Dakota would be willing to waive its student teaching requirement.

Senator Lee said as long as he has been in the Legislative Assembly, the Education Standards and Practices Board has been talking about teachers who are licensed in other states and what would be required for those individuals to gain North Dakota licensure.

Ms. Welk said prior to House Bill No. 1270, the Education Standards and Practices Board used interim reciprocal licensing and provided a two-year period within which a teacher from out of state could meet North Dakota standards. She said now, under House Bill No. 1270, no additional coursework or testing is required.

Representative Kelsch said the Legislative Assembly has indicated to Ms. Welk and the Education Standards and Practices Board that they have to implement the statute, not administrative rules that are contrary to the statute. She said she is pleased that the board has finally addressed the special education credentials. She said these have been issues since 2001. She said Mr. Kolosky should apply to the board and at least get his license to teach special education. She said Ms. Middlestead has a master's degree and can teach in South Dakota. She said she believes the intent of House Bill No. 1270 was to allow Ms. Middlestead to teach in this state. She said she believes that the law is not being properly interpreted.

Ms. Welk said Representative Kelsch is suggesting alternative paths to licensure and alternative education programs. She said she believes the state's institutions of higher education would be glad to develop those programs if that is what the Legislative Assembly wants.

Representative Kelsch said the law simply provides that if an individual has been teaching out of state, that individual can teach in this state. She said it was never her intent that someone like Ms. Middlestead should be denied licensure.

Ms. Welk said Ms. Middlestead has not applied under the new law. She said she can address that with Ms. Middlestead.

Senator Heckaman said she believes there is confusion about licenses and specific endorsements that are issued by each state. She said some of the

applicants may have held endorsements to teach something in another state, but that endorsement does not cross state lines. She said we need to be clear about whether we are talking about licensure or endorsements.

Representative Kelsch said there might be some need to clarify terminology. However, she said, if a teacher in South Dakota receives an endorsement to teach a particular subject or area, are we saying that the endorsement is worthless in North Dakota? She said she has a hard time believing that an endorsement given by the state of South Dakota should not be recognized on this side of the state line. She said South Dakota is not that different from North Dakota. She said she cannot imagine that South Dakota would issue an endorsement that North Dakota determines is worthless, and vice versa.

Ms. Welk said some states allow an individual to walk off the street, take a test, and be a teacher. Representative Kelsch said House Bill No. 1270 requires a baccalaureate from an accredited teacher preparation program.

Representative Hunsakor said we want to have the very best teachers possible in the classrooms. He said often in the smaller rural districts, superintendents cannot find qualified teachers. He said he hopes that gifted individuals are not being denied licensure because of little details that could be easily overcome or otherwise addressed.

### EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA

Mr. Jerry Coleman, Director, School Finance, Department of Public Instruction, presented testimony ([Appendix L](#)) regarding state aid to school districts.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Mr. Coleman said the reference to missing valuation is the amount that the district is short for purposes of the equity payment.

With the permission of Chairman Kelsch, Senator Cook distributed a memorandum entitled [Property Tax Elimination Initiated Measure - Analysis of Issues Raised by the Property Tax Measure Review Committee](#).

Mr. Coleman said the mill levy reduction grants pertain to the state's attempt to fund property tax relief through school districts. He said in the case of most school districts, one begins with the district's combined education mill rate as of the 2008 taxable year. He said the Legislative Assembly in 2011 placed a cap on the grants so that they cannot increase by more than the state average. He said for the current school year the state average growth is about 6 percent. He said if one multiplies the mill levy reduction rate by a district's taxable valuation, one arrives at the amount that a district is entitled to receive. He said, in exchange, a district must agree to keep its general fund mill levy rate below 110 mills, unless there is voter approval. He said districts that were levying higher amounts were grandfathered in, provided they go to a vote of the people by 2015. He said the results of that vote would be binding for

10 years. He said 61 districts are currently levying fewer than 100 mills and 58 districts are levying 100 mills to 110 mills. He said 50 districts are at the 110-mill cap, and 9 are over the cap. He said those nine districts include Fargo, West Fargo, and Bismarck. He said the remaining were grandfathered in on the basis of their reorganization plans or other vote of the people. He said for the current year the total cost is \$162 million. He said the next biennium cost is expected to be \$400 million.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Coleman said Lawrence Picus and Associates determined that it would cost approximately \$7,400 per student to provide an education that met state standards. He said if the state ensured that each school district received this amount, each district would have enough to cover the cost of education. He said that would require a change in the equalization. He said adjustments would have to be made for school size and student numbers and that could be done through the weighting system. He said that would push the cost to \$8,000 per student. He said if a minimum district contribution was required, and if the districts are already capped at 110 mills, there is a question as to the source of dollars for other costs. He said one would have to subtract out local sources of revenue from the district minimum amount.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Coleman said rather than imputing value, one could look at taking the revenue from other sources and including that in the calculation. He said on paper this looks doable, but there would be a lot of school districts on the "hold harmless" list. He said Fargo would be on the "hold harmless" list if it would not be allowed to maintain its local levy.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Mr. Coleman said education funding would become much more centralized at the state level. He said the districts' increases will be that which the Legislative Assembly gives them.

Senator Lee said one way to smooth out the formula would be to reduce the number of school districts.

### COMMENTS BY OTHERS

Ms. Sandy Clark, Director of Public Policy, North Dakota Farm Bureau, said the taxable valuation of agricultural land is expected to go up by 29 percent. She said the North Dakota Farm Bureau maintains that just because property values go up, taxes do not need to increase as well. She said local political subdivisions could simply reduce their mill levies. She said she wonders if any political subdivision will lower its mill levy.

Senator Cook said this increase in agricultural valuations will also drastically impact what a 75-mill buydown will cost the state.

In response to a question from Representative Kelsch, Ms. Clark said the North Dakota Farm Bureau

supports property tax relief, but even more, it supports property tax reform.

### **STAFF DIRECTIVES**

Chairman Kelsch said representatives of other health care provider groups should be given an opportunity to present their thoughts on concussion management. In addition, she said, the State Board of Medical Examiners will be asked to comment on scope of practice issues with respect to the evaluation and management of concussions by individuals who are not physicians.

No further business appearing, Chairman Kelsch adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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L. Anita Thomas  
Committee Counsel

ATTACH:12