



1 HB 1027 – Transportation Payments

2 NDCEL Testimony in support

3 Chairmen Owens and members of the House Education Committee, before you is a bill outlining
4 transportation payments for school districts for the upcoming biennium. Significant time was
5 spent during this interim on school district transportation costs and concerns regarding funding
6 based on funding levels, % of support, as well as new-found issues regarding the formula used and
7 how it translates based on the consequences of COVID this past year and this fall.

8 The funding here based on the dollars are held at an even level from the past biennium. Based on
9 our fiscal concerns this year we do understand why these numbers have been carried over. That
10 being said – transportation continues to be a struggle for school districts. With the rapid increase
11 in staffing cost and equipment cost over the past decade, the rate of reimbursement has resulted in
12 an ongoing decrease in % of state support for transportation. That state support being just about
13 40% this past biennium which is not reflective of the % of support overall for public education
14 from a state standpoint.

15 The greater struggle that we have in the upcoming biennium is due to circumstances beyond
16 anyone’s control yet are still impacted by the current formula. During the interim session this was
17 discussed, and recommendations were made on how to overcome this during this biennium. The
18 suggested adjustment by Senator Schaible on page one to ensure that the next biennium reflects
19 the better of the 2018-19 school year, or the prior year – whichever is great – would create the
20 appropriate solution to get schools through this biennium.

21 With that adjustment we ask that you consider a positive report on this bill.