

Good morning Chairman Owens and members of the House Education committee. I am Representative Mitch Ostlie, District 12 and I am here to present House Bill 1432.

At the present time there is a difference in fees to get a North Dakota out of state teacher license. The 2-year initial license is the same amount, but the 5-year renewal is \$50 more.

In a conversation I had with the executive director of ESPB, it was mentioned there isn't a significant difference in time in reviewing out of state or in state applicants and that there really wasn't a need any longer to have a difference in fees. Even though to many, this is a small amount of money, passing this bill will eliminate any potential barriers for individuals wanting to get licensed and work in ND. With the teacher shortage that we have, we should be doing all we can to encourage individuals to apply for positions in our state.

This bill is pretty straight forward, but I would like to make a suggestion to the committee for consideration. And that is to add an emergency clause to this bill, so if passed, applicants can take advantage of this as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions.