



1 **SB 2196 – ND Competency Framework**

2 **NDCEL Testimony in Support**

3 Chairman Owens, members of the House Education Committee – for the record my name is Dr.
4 Aimee Copas – I serve as the Executive Director for the North Dakota Council of Educational
5 Leaders. I’m here today to share our support with the concepts before you. What is laid out before
6 you today is a product of much work. The bill before you today is not just an idea that is coming
7 together in bill form like spaghetti that we are trying to stick to the wall. This is a result of time
8 intensive, ongoing, and still going work for our students of North Dakota. This is work ground in
9 real data, science, and competencies for students.

10 You are going to hear behind me professionals that have been working on this for years. You are
11 going to hear about how multiple efforts (Portrait of a Graduate, Learning Continuum,
12 Competency Pathways) – all efforts grounded in student success are coming together this summer
13 to finish the certifiable pathway. While the words are few, the impact of this bill is HUGE and it
14 is what is right for kids. There are fine folks behind me today who are going to help teach you
15 about all of this and help you see and support this work. We are asking for this NOW because our
16 students can’t wait another two years. This bill would allow much needed pathways for our current
17 high schools and could provide real avenues to address workforce needs this fall.

18 In the bill you will see that we ask that this framework be certified by the State Board of Public
19 Education. Why that board, you might ask? Because of the expansive breadth of this work – it
20 needs the review and feedback of many. The field is CRYING for a way to do the right thing
21 without yet another waiver process. This bill would preserve that wish. It would not eliminate the
22 work that a district would need to do to appropriately implement the work, but it would; with an
23 approved framework, leave the power to decide curriculum, delivery, and instruction where it
24 belongs – with the district and their locally elected school board rather than needing to seek the
25 approval from a state entity.

26 The State Board of Public Education has broad representation of the state – NDDPI, CTE, School
27 Boards, and education representation. It is also the board that has under its purview the K12



1 Coordination Council. This amended version we support as it includes the very diverse and vested
2 K12 Coordination council to review and make a recommendation of the work done before
3 certification. As a reminder, the K12 Coordination Council has representation from the Governor,
4 ND Legislators, the State Superintendent, Director of CTE, Superintendents, Principals, Teachers,
5 Counselors, Special Education, Federal Schools, NDCEL, NDSBA, NDUnited, REA's, NDSOS,
6 & others. Once the work is done, the K12 Coordination council has weighed in, then the State
7 Board, we believe the legislature can feel confident that the work, if certified, would absolutely be
8 more than credible.

9 There are several here who will be sharing with you the nuts and bolts and I yield my time to the
10 experts in the field. Thank you for your consideration and we ask for a strong DO PASS on this
11 bill.