



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony HCR 3007
House Human Services Committee
January 19, 2021**

Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. My organization represents 11,500 public employees, including K-12 teachers. I rise today to oppose HCR 3007 and to urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Members of the Committee, HCR 3007, if passed, would end the state of emergency declared by Governor Burgum on March 13, 2020. It would do so prematurely and have negative consequences for a broad swath of North Dakotans including students in North Dakota's public schools.

Mr. Chairman, I want to touch on the unintended consequences that would be triggered should HCR 3007 pass. The first is that in addition to terminating the Emergency Declaration, HCR 3007 would also nullify necessary executive orders that are still in place. For example, EO 2020-38 makes it possible for students to earn course credit for instruction conducted via distance learning protocols. Without the Emergency Declaration, that EO is nullified and that would pull the rug from beneath many students who have chosen the distance learning option in continuance of their education.

Executive Order 2020-42 makes it possible for substitute teachers to sub for longer than ten consecutive days in the same classroom. This has provided flexibility and comfort to school districts across the state as they struggled to staff classrooms throughout the pandemic. It has also provided stability to students as they further their learning.

Finally, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, if enacted, HCR 3007 would not only terminate Governor Burgum's Emergency Declaration, but in so doing, would have a detrimental effect on the amount of federal aid our state, our communities and our schools could receive if the declaration was ongoing.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation for HCR 3007. I am happy to stand for any questions.