

My name is Andrea Dulski-Bucholz, Dean and Chair of the Division of Education at Mayville State University and I am glad to be able to present testimony for Senate Bill No. 2229 on providing appropriations to the student teacher scholarship program.

Mayville State University's teacher education program is dedicated to serving the needs of North Dakota schools and communities in supporting education students in a variety of experiential placements prior to student teaching and during student teaching. We piloted a rural school pre-student teaching placement program in 2019 with the assistance Mr. ElRoy Burkle of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools to draw interest from rural school leaders to place our secondary education students for a week-long experience one semester prior to student teaching. This was one of several experiences prior to student teaching. Overwhelmingly, feedback from our students in this full-day, week-long experience indicated that teacher candidates were positive about the small rural school atmosphere and they felt the sense of community was supportive and inviting and sparked their interest in possibly teaching at a rural school when they were done with their program. Imagine if they had a whole semester in a rural school during their student teaching experience!

Passing Senate Bill 2229 to provide scholarship opportunities to student teachers would relieve some financial pressure on them for the housing and tuition costs during the student teaching semester. The availability of housing is a large factor in determining where student teachers choose to complete their student teaching and quite often leads students to want to student teach near their home community or in a larger community where housing options are more readily available through friends or relatives. When rural school district leaders can assure there is housing available in their rural school community, and students do not need to worry about rent or tuition, students would be more apt to select a rural placement and become involved in the school and extended community. Throughout the semester-long experience, if there is a developed sense of belonging student teachers may show more interest in seeking a rural school teaching position and add to the critical teaching workforce needs in our rural communities.

I have had the pleasure to serve on the North Dakota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education over the past 7 years, and I would like to add that the work that is done through the NDACTE is grounded in how best to serve our students, North Dakota's K12 schools and North Dakota's workforce needs while ensuring excellent teacher preparation programs that include quality student experiences.

This bill demonstrates positive support to student teachers across teacher education programs throughout the state and North Dakota's rural school districts. I strongly support Senate Bill 2229.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrea Dulski-Bucholz
Dean and Chair, Division of Education
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