



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony SB 2235
Senate Education Committee
January 27, 2021**

Chairman Schaible, and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. ND United is a union of professionals dedicated to public service. On behalf of our 11,500 members across North Dakota, I rise in support of SB 2235.

Mr. Chairman, SB 2235, should it pass, will serve to put badly needed nurses into schools that desperately need them. The shortage of school nurses in public schools is not just an issue in North Dakota, it is a confounding issue across the United States. Consider these statistics from Education Week:

- 1.7M students are in schools with police but no counselors.
- 6M students are in schools with police but no school psychologists.
- 10M students are in schools with police but no social workers.
- 3M students are in schools with police but no nurses.

Let me pause here to say that ND United encourages the presence of School Resource Officers in our school buildings. In North Dakota, SRO's have become part of our school families and have proven to be welcome contributors to school climates.

Still, we recognize that many of our school districts lack school nurses and that every school district would benefit in many ways by having them. And while I do not have state specific data, please consider the attributes that school nurses bring to their workspaces:

- School nurses work with their school districts to advance the well-being and academic success of students.
- School nurses work with faculty and staff to promote healthful student behaviors and choices.



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- Schools provide a congregate setting which makes it easier for medical professionals, including school nurses, to reach students and inform them of health and lifestyle risks, as well as positive practices that enhance the health and safety of our students.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I am urging you to bestow a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2235.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for questions.