

DEVILS LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

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Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2235. I am Matt Bakke, Superintendent in the Devils Lake Public School system. Today, I will provide testimony in support of SB 2235.

In education today, school nurses play an instrumental role in the identification and referral to community resources for students and families. The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) defines school nursing as a specialized practice that “protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal student development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge healthcare and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential.” School nurses stand at the intersection of health and education, weaving support needed to reduce barriers to learning and promoting healthy children, families, and communities. School nurses assist children in having access to appropriate educational opportunities regardless of their state of health. They have a foundational role, providing not only direct services for students with health problems, but also promoting the health of the communities in which they live and serve.

I ask that you support SB 2235 with a do pass recommendation. This is an opportunity to provide students across the state with greater access to health and wellness.