



1 HB 1201

2 Testimony in support

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee – for the record –

4 I'm here representing NDCEL and all your school leaders in North Dakota – we are

5 here to support this bill whole heartedly. We are here with the #1 purpose and that is

6 to support students. One of the ways to best support them is to have our schools

7 staffed appropriately. Each person in this committee is aware of the shortages we are

8 experiencing in staffing. Once a teacher signs a contract, it is an assurance to a certain

9 level that we will be able to serve our students for the duration of that contract,

10 however, to have our teachers encouraged to break contract, and walk away from the

11 students in the district to take a position with a state agency or political subdivision is

12 not in the best interest of kids.

13

14 In the past biennium (in fact this school year) it has happened where a state agency has

15 recruited and hired a contracted teacher during the school year which put the schools

16 in a position where they'd need to release that teacher from their contract. There are

17 individuals who are filling rolls such as teachers in special education – rolls that are the

18 most challenging to fill...and as it is just as important for those agencies to have

19 qualified people, however asking teachers to break contract to work for another state

20 agency of political subdivision does NOT directly support our students.

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22 In a time of teacher shortages, especially in shortages in the special education

23 departments as well as all other teacher shortage areas from music to English to math

24 to science.... to have a state agency take those teachers during the school year and

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz



1 having those students now NO LONGER receiving those needed teacher services is
2 inappropriate.

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4 This bill would require the agency, state entity, or political subdivision to wait until the
5 completion of the current active contract before any school district employee to begin
6 employment with that individual. They may offer the contract, but it does not begin
7 until after the end of the contract unless it is mutually agreed upon between the school
8 board, superintendent, and that state agency, state entity, or political subdivision.

9 Asking state agencies and political subs to respect contract law should be a low
10 requirement and a general level of respect toward protecting our students.

11

12 We ask that as you discuss you consider our thoughts on this bill