



1 HB 1231

2 Testimony In opposition

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the house education committee. For the record, my
4 name is Dr. Aimee Copas, I serve as the executive director for the ND Council of
5 Educational Leaders serving ND k12 school leaders. I come to you today carrying a
6 message from my specialists that work in this area with a note of concern that may very
7 well be solvable from the legislative standpoint.

8 Last session this body approved pilot programs to screen for dyslexia. We realize there
9 is a need for this. I come in opposition sharing concern from Special Education Directors
10 (one of my affiliate organizations) as well as other leaders regarding a bill that is
11 incomplete. We are missing grave components. Funding, and a universal screener.

12 The PD, screening tool, dyslexia specialist and services required in this bill will cost
13 money and time. Is there a plan to pay for that – if not – that is yet again another
14 unfunded mandate which erodes our ability to provide services to students as well as
15 our ability to appropriately fund employees.

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17 This doesn't even touch the redundancy of requiring both districts and their special ed
18 units to do the same thing as it appears parts of this bill require. We believe there can
19 be a pathway to meet the needs of all involved, however, we believe it is important that
20 to solve a problem for students it needs to be looked at beyond the "we just need to do
21 this" standpoint. The "how," the "why", and the "how much" needs to all be
22 considered and accounted for. As we consider the "how much" we need to also
23 understand that this must be ongoing funding not one time as the screener is about
24 \$15 per student plus FTE time to conduct the screening. These are similar issue we
25 encountered last session when it was put into a pilot that was funded. If we funded
26 the pilot, we must logically believe the statewide application should be funded as well
27 as overcoming the redundancies in the bill.

28 Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this as you discuss this bill.

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for all students in North Dakota.*

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