

January 23, 2023

Members of the legislative committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1251. As the Family and Consumer Science teacher at Beach High School, I believe this bill would be terrible for North Dakota schools. I fail to see how HB 1251 would benefit small and rural schools, which leads me to the only possible conclusion that this bill is deliberately trying to shut down these schools.

This past year, Beach Public School had to go through the hiring process for a new superintendent. We were fortunate to hire an excellent superintendent. However, this is not always the case for rural schools, such as ours. Rural schools already have trouble trying to get good quality administrators to move to remote areas. This bill would make it harder to find qualified candidates willing to live in a remote area with a big load of responsibility.

The superintendent is the backbone of our school. This administrator is responsible for school calendars, attending all school board meetings, weather cancellations, and being the public face of the school district amongst many other responsibilities. There is no possible way one person can juggle this many tasks for several different schools.

One superintendent for multiple schools would add more stress to that individual. This in turn would add more workload on the principal who would have to act as an assistant superintendent. This would trickle down from the administration to more stress on the teachers.

This bill would take away local control from the community. Each community is different with its own culture and challenges. One superintendent for multiple schools cannot understand or give proper attention to the complexities of each district.

I received an email from Representative Ruby urging my fellow teachers and I to support HB 1251. The email stated that with the savings of combining superintendents, each teacher would receive \$4,600. This is a blatant attempt to bribe teachers into supporting a bill which would be detrimental to rural school districts. Do you really think teachers would exchange local control for \$4,600?

In conclusion, HB 1251 would not be in the best interest of schools. This bill is a deliberate attack on small schools and local school districts ability to have a say in their children's education. Please vote NO on HB 1251.

Sincerely,

Jadah Kerr

Family and Consumer Science Teacher
Beach High School