



1 **HB 1271 – Retired Teachers Returning with no contribution to TFFR**

2 Testimony in opposition

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education committee, my name is Dr.  
4 Aimee Copas, and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Council of  
5 Educational Leaders representing school leaders across North Dakota.

6 I am here to testify in opposition to **BH 1271**. There are currently three bills in different  
7 committees that all focus on ways to allow retired teachers to return to work and receive  
8 their retirement benefit. **SB2258** and its sister bill **HB 1219** both provide for a fiscally  
9 responsible way for retired teachers to return to the profession due to teacher shortage  
10 issues and to not negatively impact their retirement nor tremendously impact the TFFR  
11 fund and its progress toward being fully funded. The bill before you today has good  
12 intention to allow teachers back into the classroom but is NOT a bill that is fiscally  
13 responsible way to do so. In this bill teachers return, retirement continues as in this bill  
14 before you today, BUT neither the employer or employee contribute to the fund. This  
15 would dismantle and destroy the TFFR fund and in my opinion is not a fiscally  
16 responsible use of taxpayer dollars. According to the RIO office, we are set to have TFFR  
17 fully funded by 2048. If this bill passes, it will make it impossible for the fund to ever  
18 be fully funded.

19 Because there are two other bills that provide the option for retired teachers to return  
20 and they are both fiscally sound approaches, we'd ask that you give this bill a do not pass  
21 and consider the others as viable options.

22

*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*