

Certification Central

ND's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program

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Written Testimony in Support of HB 1304

Chairman Heinert and House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Katherine Terras, and I represent Certification Central, ND's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program approved by the NDESPB.

This bill is a result of collaborative efforts among NDDPI, NDESPB, Minot State University, Certification Central, legislators, and a special education director.

Certification Central is in support of HB 1304. The special education permit requires the completion of special education coursework, successful student teaching in special education, and the passing of the special education licensure examination. Consequently, those teaching special education on a permit would have completed coursework and fieldwork that supports the special education major. These individuals are still required to obtain a bachelor's degree within two years of being issued the permit, so we are not lowering the licensure standard, rather temporarily recognizing the comprehensive training in special education and in the general principles of teaching and learning. Further, some individuals applying for the special education permit, may have practiced as a special education technician as part of ND's innovation to build a pipeline from paraeducator, to special education technician, to the special education teacher, and finally to the educational leader.

We strongly encourage a Do Pass for HB 1304.