



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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HB 1349 – Testimony in Support
House Education Committee
Representative Heinert– Chairman
February 1, 2023

Representative Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 150-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in support to HB 1349.

This bill is quite simple and easy to support. The cost districts have incurred related to serving all of our students have increased just like most other goods and services. This certainly is no different for student with special needs. This bill will increase the weighting factor from .0820 to .125 an increase of .043. This would mean approximately \$430 additional for each student. This is not a large dollar amount but will help districts small and large serve our most vulnerable and fragile learners. This may be enough to supplement the purchase of programming or support services for a group or an individual student.

NDSOS supports a do pass recommendation on HB 1349.

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The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.