

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1521
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

February 7, 2023

By: Joe Kolosky, Director of School Approval & Opportunity

701-328-2755

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Joe Kolosky and I am the Director of School Approval & Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 1521 regarding alternative curriculum outside of a classroom, or the “Learn Everywhere” bill.

We feel this bill alleviates some red tape and streamlines the process to allow more districts to take advantage of opportunities to enable students to earn valuable work and life experiences and earn graduation credit at the same time.

In addition, for your consideration, I have included an amended bill that requires districts to submit their program proposals to the superintendent of public instruction after the public school board or governing board has approved the program. We also request that the last two subsections stay intact, which requires evaluation data to be submitted to the superintendent of public instruction, and allows the superintendent to revoke programs that fail to comply with the agreed-upon terms of the original proposal.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this concludes my prepared testimony, and I am glad to stand for any questions you may have.