

**Testimony of Kirsten Baesler**  
**North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction**  
**House Education Committee**  
**In Support of SB 2269**  
**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, good morning.

I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 2269.

The administrative structure outlined in Senate Bill 2269 is similar to the Department of Public Instruction's relationship to two other state schools – the School for the Blind & Vision Services in Grand Forks and the School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing in Devils Lake, as well as the State Library in Bismack. I hire and supervise the heads of those institutions. They have separate budgets and staff but they benefit from the infrastructure of our agency including HR and procurement. Their budgets are heard separately each biennium as part of the Department of Public Instruction budget bill that includes state funding for our local schools.

Director Sick, Dr. Martin and I sat down and reviewed the original language of this bill together and made suggested amendments as a team with the interest of students' and their future at the center of our discussion. The Senate agreed with our suggestions and passed the language you see today. We agreed that this change will help provide opportunities for children in all grade levels across the state. CTE, CDE and DPI have developed a strong cross-agency team, and this change will only strengthen our ability to better partner with each other.

Chairman Heinert and members of the committee, I ask for your Do Pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2269 that you have before you today.

I welcome any questions you may have.