

HB 1186 School Construction Loan/Grant Fund

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the Superintendent of Alexander Public School in Alexander, ND. I am here in support of HB 1186.

In 2015-16, Alexander District added equal square footage to our school building due to enrollment increase. Alexander Public School enrollment has increased by 546% in the last 15 years. We received the Bank of ND School Construction Loan for \$10,000,000 and sold bonds in the open market for \$7,000,000.

Alexander School enrollment continues to grow at a rate of 33.47% in the last five years and we are in need of more classrooms. In January 2023, Alexander Public School went out for a second referendum for \$15.5 million, which was unfortunately voted down. As we continue to grow, we will continue to work with our community to build classrooms at a price palatable to our proprietors. The construction loan at 1% will definitely assist in working to a yes vote on the referendum. This will be a great tax break for our proprietors.

I ask for a Do Pass from the committee and a green vote on the floor. I will stand for any questions.

Thank you,

Leslie Bieber