

Introduction and Support of:

HB1304 – SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER PERMIT / Emergency Measure

Chairman Elkin, Vice-Chair Beard and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative.

This proposed legislation is to address the shortage of special education teachers. The bill was written with a representative from Minot State University and a representative from Certification Central who will also testify in support of this legislation.

This bill would allow an individual to teach special education using a permit for a time not exceeding two years if the individual:

- Is currently enrolled in a bachelor's program with a major in special education;
- Has successfully completed all professional education coursework, special education major-specific course work and student teaching, and
- Has passed the test required by the education standards and practices board, including the content area test.

To further explain, an individual who successfully completes the third and fourth years of the coursework required for a special education degree would be eligible to obtain a special education teaching permit. Then, while teaching special education with the permit, the individual would be required to complete the coursework to obtain a bachelor's degree within the following two years.

The bill has an emergency clause so if passed, the administrative rules could be written and approved in time for this program to be in effect the fall semester of 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.