

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1521
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

March 13, 2023

By: Joe Kolosky, Director of School Approval & Opportunity

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North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Committee:

My name is 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 issues 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 credit for graduation at the same time.

In addition, the House kept in the bill the requirement for 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 agree with this requirement. We also request that the 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.