



1 SB 2033

2 Testimony in Support – Senate Education Committee

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. For the record my
4 name is Kevin Hoherz– I am here representing the North Dakota Council Leaders supporting
5 all the school administrators and school leaders in K12 across the state. I come to you with
6 support and a suggested amendment to SB 2033.

7 We are in support of loan forgiveness for our teachers but not the methodology
8 outlined in SB 2033. We feel that teacher loan forgiveness and scholarships would be a
9 better fit as outlined in ND Century Code 15-10-38.2. Higher education and ND Career and
10 Technical Education call this Career Builders that outline workforce educational pathways
11 including education.

12 This bill essentially brings back the teacher loan forgiveness program. The State
13 Superintendent and NDDPI will again administer the program as they have in the past. This
14 bill will allow the State Superintendent to adopt rules to set up areas of teacher shortage and
15 critical need. Rules will also include grade level, content areas, and geographical location.

16 Graduates from accredited teacher prep program, have a signed contract that fulfills
17 the critical need area, and have an existing student loan will be eligible. If the person is
18 getting loan forgiveness anywhere else, they are not eligible for this.

19 SB 2033 is requesting \$30 million to be appropriated for the biennium. The amounts
20 of distribution are as follows;

- 21 • Critical need in non-rural school: \$2500 p/y for 4 years
- 22 • Rural School: \$3750 p/y for 4 years
- 23 • Rural School or remote town: \$5000 p/y for 4 years

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz



1 The rationale for our request for an amendment and a shift of this appropriation to
2 the Career Builders scholarship is based on two important reasons – RECRUITMENT and
3 RETENTION. The bill in its current form only addresses the retention side of the argument.
4 As nice as it sounds to say that loan repayment would recruit people into the profession
5 would recruit an 18–19-year-old to choose this, the likelihood of that is far less than a front
6 end enticement through a scholarship and a back end loan repayment for the purposes of
7 retention.

8 During my time as an administrator, I would complete the verification for teachers in
9 the past loan forgiveness program. Teachers were disappointed when the past loan
10 forgiveness program ended. On a personal note, I have two daughters that are currently
11 teaching that would be eligible for this new program. They, like most young teachers, would
12 benefit from this legislation. It will give incentives for teachers to explore all districts in
13 North Dakota and help promote education as a profession. We think that a merger of the
14 reinvigoration of an investment in our teachers is wise, and even more so if that investment
15 is in the modality of the Career Builders Scholarship, it will better serve our needs in
16 education.

17 I ask that you please consider this amendment as you discuss this bill.