



1 SB 2070

2 Testimony in Support

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee – my name is Aimee Copas and
4 I am here representing NDCEL and our school leaders around the state in support of SB 2070

5 This bill makes some adjustments to the timeline and permissiveness regarding what the field calls
6 “Community Experts”. The reality is in today’s workforce, education is experiencing shortages in
7 all areas which is common among all employers in our workforce. There are many instances when
8 advertised teaching positions do not even receive a qualified licensed applicant for several years.
9 However, often we have wonderful people in our communities who have a high level of skills and
10 can fill a role in our schools as a teacher, their one detractor is that their area of expertise is not
11 accompanied with a degree in education.

12 The extension in the timeline offered in this bill enables the current community experts to keep
13 their jobs for another additional time to serve the school. The bill also includes wise parameters
14 wherein if they wish to maintain this employment for a longer term, they must then pursue that
15 plan of study in education.

16 We are appreciative of ESPB and the work they do to assist the field and to understand how
17 beneficial these alternative pathways to education are to our communities.

18 We encourage you to consider this information as you consider this bill.

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*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-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler