

1 SB2070

2 Testimony in Support

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4 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. For the record my name is Dr.
5 Michael McNeff – I serve as the superintendent of schools in Rugby, ND. I come to you today to
6 provide some feedback on SB 2070, a bill related to teaching permits. I and many other
7 superintendents have taken advantage of 15.1-18-10 of the North Dakota Century Code. I am in
8 support of the changes made within SB 2070. We have found success in filling classrooms with
9 quality individuals that may lack the proper licensure to teach in North Dakota. This part of Code
10 is set to sunset later this year on July 31, 2023.

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12 I hope to provide some examples of why I feel this legislation is needed going forward. First and
13 foremost, we have been able to maintain a quality art program at Rugby High School. Over the
14 past three years, we have used alternate ways to maintain this program. We hired an excellent
15 teacher that had a higher education background in the arts and through some recent legislative
16 changes he was able to obtain licensure. We were able to keep that person for two years and he
17 retired last year. We spent most of the spring and summer looking for an art teacher. Fortunately,
18 we were able to look internally and promoted a paraeducator that will finish up his art illustration
19 degree soon. This person was able to obtain a permit due to his vast background in art and he
20 qualified due to his 4,000 hours of documented work in the art field. He has all of the intangibles
21 and what it takes to be an effective teacher without the traditional background. This opportunity
22 has now encouraged him to seek a career in education. He will be completing his bachelor's in art
23 illustration and he is interested in entering a master's program in art education.

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25 Expanding the sunset clause to 2031 and providing additional time to enroll and complete a
26 traditional teaching program is a great way to get people into the field and keep them there.
27 There are plenty of nontraditional people that would make excellent teachers. SB 2070 provides
28 flexibility while still maintaining high standards. Without this additional flexibility, we would not have
29 been able to provide an art program for our 300 students at Rugby High School.

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31 Please issue a DO PASS on SB 2070.