



Good morning Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. For the record, my name is Bob Paulson and I am a State Senator from District 3 in Minot.

SB 2258 is brought to you today as a result of a conversation with the Superintendent of Minot Public Schools who will testify following me.

During a conversation, he asked if I would be willing to bring a bill modeled after our neighboring state to the South, which would allow for the re-hiring of a teacher after they had retired. He provided the language for me to submit to Legislative Council, which resulted in the bill I bring to you today.

The bill allows for re-hiring retired teachers with a couple of restrictions. As you can see on page 1 lines 12-20, it must be an unfilled opening in a critical shortage area, the school district must have conducted a thorough search and no other qualified applicant accepted the position; and they must notify the fund office in writing within ten days of the retired member's return to covered employment.

In preparation for this bill, both Superintendent Vollmer and I have spoken separately with Jan Murtha, the *Executive Director* of the North Dakota Retirement & Investment Office. I believe she is in support of the bill, provided the member's contribution and employer's contribution continue to be made. If that aspect was amended out of the bill, it would be problematic for the health of the fund.

Dr. Vollmer will follow me and would be much more adept at answering specific questions about the bill and its impact, but I would be happy to stand for any questions.