

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jen Steiner and I am a member of the Lone Tree School Board as well as a member of the teacher shortage workgroup that is made up of those involved in education at several levels across ND.

I am writing in support of SB2270.

Being a very small rural pre-K – 8 school I was very interested in the NDACTE hosted Teacher Shortage Summit held in Bismarck on June 8, 2022 and became involved in the workgroups that were formed to help address our critical teacher shortage. One of the recommendations from these workgroups to address the critical teacher shortage is a bill to incentivize student teaching in rural schools.

This bill will help those of us in rural districts recruit well prepared student teachers to our communities and give them a chance to become a part of our community and the lives of its students and families, thus retaining them as fully licensed teachers.

I appreciate that the sponsors of this bill, Senators Bekkedahl and Davison, and Representatives Heinert, Nathe, Sanford, and Schaible, worked hard to ensure that this bill does not put financial aid constraints on student teachers and the focus it puts on both rural and high need areas.

Thank-you for your time

Jen Steiner

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