

SB 2328

Testimony in support

Senator Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Cari Kramer and I am the Superintendent and High School Principal of Wing Public School. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Senate Bill 2328. Wing Public School currently has seventy – one students in grades PK – 12. Our district is spread out just over 400 square miles. It is important that I share why SB 2328 is important to our district.

Our enrollment has fluctuated around the mid -seventy range over the past five years although at one point enrollment at Wing was in the 120 student range but that was some time ago. Our enrollment is an integral part of our funding. In the 2019-2020 Wing Public School received \$1,038,940.46 in foundation aid; in 2020 -2021 we received \$1,010,361.94; in 2021-22, \$991 864.79 This year we are receiving \$961,284.88. The 15% Transition Minimum payment decreases our yearly payment regardless of enrollment. To keep up with rising costs and inflation our district has increase our local tax levies incrementally over the past two years. Additionally, we have worked hard to make our teacher compensation comparable to districts around us. Recruiting and retaining quality teachers is necessary to keep a school going. Despite sound and efficient budgeting decisions, Wing School District will be forced to continue to deficit spend as our funding decreases.

Wing School district serves students who live within the city limits of Wing, but a substantial number of our students are bussed in from rural areas in our district. If our district did not exist, our students would have to be transported further to other districts such as Kidder County, Bismarck, and Wilton depending on where the student resides.

Now more than ever, Wing Public School District and the other 24 schools districts that are similar to us need your support on Senate Bill 2328.

Thank you for your time.

Cari Kramer 1/24/2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cari Kramer" followed by a checkmark and the date "1/24/23".