



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee
SB 2354
Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Senator Elkin and members of the Committee, I am Nick Archuleta, and I am president of North Dakota United. I write today to urge a do pass recommendation for SB 2354.

Mr. Chairman, the goal of educators is to prepare the next generation of North Dakotans for the world they will lead. The society in which they will take their place is increasingly more diverse, dynamic, and multi-cultural. In our view, Mr. Chairman, HB 2354 may provide the spark for teachers to teach a world language to young children while the language centers of the brain are wide open and more able to learn a language more easily.

Chairman Elkin and members of the Committee, the research is clear regarding learning a world language at early age. Those that do show heightened skills in critical thinking, problem solving, concentration, retention of learned materials, and concentration across academic disciplines. There is no downside to learning a world language at a young age and, frankly, the United States is behind the curve in this area.

SB 2354 is a step in the right direction, Mr. Chairman. We want North Dakota's kids to have every advantage as they compete in a diverse world. SB 2354 deserves a **do pass** recommendation.