



1 **HB 1219**

2 Testimony in support

3 Chairwoman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government committee,
4 my name is Dr. Aimee Copas, and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota
5 Council of Educational Leaders representing school leaders across North Dakota.

6 I am here to testify in support of **HB 1219**. This bill provide for a fiscally responsible
7 way for retired teachers to return to the profession due to teacher shortage issues and to
8 not negatively impact their retirement nor tremendously impact the TFFR fund and its
9 progress toward being fully funded.

10 One of the calls I get often in my office from fellow administrators is to whether we could
11 do something – even for a short time – to allow for retired teachers to come back and to
12 not be bound by the 750-hour limitation. This call comes to me most often in our rural
13 schools. This option could provide a 1-2 year stop gap as the district continues to try to
14 find a qualified employee to fill that open position.

15 In this bill the teacher would begin again receiving their teacher’s salary under their
16 contract. They would temporarily suspend their retirement benefit. The employee and
17 employer would contribute to the TFFR fund while they are working. When they choose
18 to “re-retire” there would be a recalculation of benefits – this would be in the best
19 interest of the teacher. This would benefit the field and not be detrimental to the TFFR
20 fund. We’d ask that you consider this testimony as you discuss this bill.

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*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz