



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony Before the Senate State and Local Government Committee
HB 1219
March 9, 2023**

Chairwoman Roers and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I rise today in support of HB 1219 and to urge a do pass recommendation for this bill.

Madam Chair, the majority of this bill clarifies existing law or makes minor changes in the TFFR defined benefit plan that make it better. Our principal support of the plan, however, is embodied in Section 7. That section incentivizes retired teachers to return to the classroom and to remain longer. It does so by acknowledging a returning teacher's continued service by allowing for a re-calculation of their benefits upon re-retirement. We believe that this option will benefit retired teachers long term.

Chairwoman Roers and members of the Committee, we believe that the passage of HB 1219 will help to alleviate the teacher shortage in North Dakota as it provides for experienced and knowledgeable educators to return to the classroom as we work to make a career in education to a new generation of young people.

For these reasons, Madam Chair, and members of the Committee, I urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1219. I am happy to stand for questions.