



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

1224 West Owens Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58501  
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127  
[www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org)

**HB 1095**  
**Testimony of Amy De Kok**  
**House Education**  
**January 13, 2025**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Amy De Kok. I am the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents all 168 North Dakota public school districts, their boards, and several multi-district special education units. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 1095, which would require the designation of a child protective services liaison in each public school district. I am here to express general support for this important legislation while suggesting several key amendments to strengthen its effectiveness.

The core premise of HB 1095 is sound. Allowing for a designated liaison position between schools and child protective services can significantly improve communication, coordination, and ultimately outcomes for vulnerable students. School staff are often the first to notice signs of abuse or neglect, yet the current system can, at times, create barriers to effective reporting and follow-up. A dedicated liaison may help bridge these gaps.

However, I respectfully suggest the following amendments to enhance the bill's impact:

- On page 1, at line 11, remove the entirety of subpart a of subsection 2 (“a faculty member, including a counselor, social worker, or administrator, or”) and at line 12, insert “or retained to serve in” after “an individual hired”. “Hired or retained” would give schools more flexibility in designating this role to an employee or someone from the special education unit they might be a part of (or an independent contractor).
- At line 15, remove “the primary” and insert “a” in subpart a of subsection 3. The CPS liaison can be a point of contact but shouldn’t be the only or automatically the primary point of contact. This could conflict with NDCC 50-25.1-05.6, which requires CPS to notify “the school principal” or other “administrator” when conducting interviews on school property.
- Add “as allowed by law” at the end of both subpart b and subpart c of subsection 3. The “as allowed by law” language provides some protection to school districts when

complying with FERPA requirements. FERPA is the federal law that protects the privacy of students' education records and limits who can access them.

- Replace “coordinate” with “assist with coordinating” in subpart d of subsection 3. School personnel should not be responsible for the coordinating of "resources" for students in the care of CPS, but they can certainly "assist."
- Finally, on page 2, line 12 add a subpart c to subsection 4 with the following language: “Assistance with internal school district investigations that may occur concurrently with child protective services investigations.” NDCC chapter 50-25.1 requires that CPS and schools coordinate the planning and execution of child protection assessments and school investigation efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews if practical. This language will make this bill consistent with this requirement.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. I would be happy to provide additional information or clarification as needed.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1095**

Introduced by

Representatives Kiefert, Dobervich, Frelich, Karls, McLeod, Mitskog, S. Olson

Senator Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to child protective services liaisons in school districts.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Child protective services liaison - Duties - Training - Report.**

7 1. As used in this section, "child protective services" means an "authorized agent" or the  
8 "department" as the terms are defined under section 50-25.1-02.

9 2. A school district may designate at least one child protective services liaison by assigning the  
10 duties under subsection 3 to:

11 a. ~~A faculty member, including a counselor, social worker, or administrator, or~~

12 b. An individual hired ~~or retained to serve in~~ for the position of child protective  
13 services liaison.

14 3. A child protective services liaison shall:

15 a. Act as ~~a the primary~~ point of contact for child protective services;

16 b. Communicate with child protective services on behalf of the school district ~~as~~  
allowed by law;\_

17 c. Assist child protective services with a student case investigation ~~as allowed by law;~~

18 d. ~~Assist with coordinating~~ ~~Coordinate~~ resources and support services for a student in  
19 the care of child protective services;

20 e. Inform school personnel of a student's needs resulting from the student's  
21 involvement with child protective services as necessary; and

22 f. Annually provide to the school district a report, including:

23 (1) The number of cases on which the liaison worked;

(2) Challenges resulting from collaboration with child protective services; and

- 1                   (3) Recommendations for improving the partnership between child protective  
2                                   services and the school district.
- 3       4. Child protective services shall provide:
- 4           a. Training to each child protective services liaison, within six months of the liaison's  
5                   designation, including:
- 6                   (1) Identification of signs of child abuse and neglect;  
7                   (2) Procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect;  
8                   (3) Child protective services protocols and procedures;  
9                   (4) Best practices for collaborating with child protective services to support  
10                                   students; and
- 11                   (5) Confidentiality and ethical considerations regarding student cases.
- 12           b. Ongoing training and professional development.  
              c. Assistance with internal school district investigations that may occur concurrently  
                                 with child protective service investigations.