

1 North Dakota School Study Council Testimony in Support HB 1172 – NDCDE Fees

2 Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee,

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1172. The schools I represent
4 are in support of this bill. HB 1172 promotes efficiency and the wise use of taxpayer
5 dollars. Schools are unable to redirect dollars from certain staffing positions due
6 timelines in state law. It makes no sense for taxpayers to pay for duplicative services; if
7 the school district is offering the class the taxpayers should not have to pay for the
8 student to take the class through CDE. If the course is not offered, we are fine with the
9 school paying.

10 We have no issue with any student taking a course from CDE, if the student and parent
11 pays. Taxpayers should not need to pay for duplication of services.

12 Just to put this in perspective, Bismark Public Schools spent approximately \$100,000 in
13 FY24 on CDE – almost all these dollars were for classes available in BPS.

14 Currently school districts do not have the option of saying no to students when they
15 request a course from NDCDE. I have pasted an excerpt from ND DPI's Guidance
16 (p.4),

17 [https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SAO/Virtual%20Education/Virtual%20](https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SAO/Virtual%20Education/Virtual%20Instruction%20Guidance%202024.8.23.pdf)
18 [Instruction%20Guidance%202024.8.23.pdf](https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SAO/Virtual%20Education/Virtual%20Instruction%20Guidance%202024.8.23.pdf).

Q. What if the school already offers the course? Does the district still have to allow the student to take the same course from NDCDE?

19 A. Yes.

20 As you can see, schools are forced to use tax dollars to pay for duplicative service.

21 I respectfully urge your support for HB 1172 to promote responsible use of taxpayer
22 dollars. Thank you for your consideration!

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24 Dr. Paul Stremick