

# Certification Central

ND's 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative Educator Preparation Program

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## Written Testimony in Support of HB1220

Chairman and Committee:

For the record, my name is Dr. Katherine Terras, Co-founder of Certification Central, ND's 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative Educator Preparation Program. I am in full support of HB1220. Prior to establishing Certification Central, I was a professor at two traditional universities since 2004. The number of general education credits required of postsecondary students has needed critical evaluation since the transition into the Information Age. Proponents of general or liberal arts education often argue, "Students need a well-rounded education," yet when asked, "What magically makes a student well-rounded when they reach 120 credits," no substantive response is articulated. Requiring postsecondary students to invest their time and money into 50+ general education credits is an ethical dilemma. A high school education should be the focus of general education, while a professional degree should focus on coursework specific to the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to be gainfully employed in their chosen career.

Those opposing this bill may be concerned about jeopardizing institutions' regional and professional accreditations. These accrediting bodies reside outside of North Dakota and can have core standards and values that do not align with North Dakota values. So rather than bend to the will of those outside of North Dakota, perhaps the legislature could create a pathway for North Dakota to establish our own state accreditation agencies. Our state has citizens who have the commitment and capacity to do the work that represents the core values and standards of North Dakota and beyond.