



1 Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

2 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1238, regarding
3 the years of service in ND before eligible for lifetime license as well as reporting requirements
4 for a lifetime teaching license.

5 We commend the sponsors of this bill for their efforts to streamline the licensure process while
6 maintaining accountability and high standards for educators in North Dakota. This change
7 appropriately balances the value of experience with the need for continued professional
8 responsibility.

9 It is important to emphasize that the reporting requirements included in the bill uphold the
10 integrity of the teaching profession. The five-year reporting mandate ensures that individuals
11 holding a lifetime license remain in good standing, affirming their commitment to ethical
12 conduct and professional responsibility. By requiring educators to disclose any criminal
13 violations or other relevant information, the bill safeguards the welfare of our students and
14 preserves public trust in our educational institutions.

15 Furthermore, we believe this amendment aligns with our state's commitment to supporting
16 educators throughout their careers. By reducing unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, the bill allows
17 experienced teachers to focus more on their instructional responsibilities while maintaining
18 compliance with the Education Standards and Practices Board's oversight.

19 While not addressed in the bill it is worth noting as an aside that we wish to underscore our firm
20 belief that this legislation does not, and should not, diminish the rigorous requirements for
21 obtaining and maintaining administrative credentials. We recognize that our teachers receive
22 significant professional development each year, ensuring they remain well-equipped to meet the
23 evolving needs of students. However, it is imperative that our administrators continue to pursue
24 new and innovative training opportunities to stay current with best practices and emerging
25 trends. By doing so, they can bring fresh ideas and forward-thinking strategies to their districts,
26 fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in education.

27 In closing, we respectfully urge your support of House Bill No. 1238. We believe this bill strikes
28 the right balance between honoring the dedication of our educators and maintaining the
29 professional standards necessary to ensure the highest quality of education for our students.

30 Thank you for your time and consideration.

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