

1 North Dakota School Study Council Testimony in Support HB 1288 –  
2 Compliant with State Law

3 Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee,

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1288. The  
5 schools I represent are opposed to this bill. Every school district has  
6 policies addressing complaints. HB 1288 circumvents local complaint and  
7 grievance procedures.

8 Do we believe school districts should be compliant with education-related  
9 state statutes, ABSOLUTELY!!! But there are already processes in place to  
10 address this if statutes are not followed. I know this, because I have  
11 conducted numerous investigations throughout the state.

12 There are times when the school board president is too close to the issue  
13 or too close to the superintendent so an outside investigator is needed.  
14 There are times when the school district has done its own investigation and  
15 the findings are appealed through the process, and an outside investigator  
16 is needed.

17 The complainant and responding party always receive a copy of the  
18 findings. This does not mean everyone agrees with the findings. There are  
19 times when the facts simply do not support the complaint or when the  
20 person believes they did nothing wrong.

21 There is no fiscal note attached to this bill. It does cost money when  
22 investigations are conducted. When investigations are conducted by non-  
23 school personnel those individuals need to be compensated for time and  
24 travel.

25 HB 1288 is unnecessary because of existing policies and practices. Thank  
26 you for your consideration!

27 

28 Dr. Paul Stremick