

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1363  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 27, 2025**

**By: Robin Lang, Assistant Director of Educational Improvement and Support**

**701-328-2265**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robin Lang, and I am an Assistant Director in the Office of Educational Improvement and Support with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in opposition of House Bill 1363, as it is currently written.

While the Department of Public Instruction supports the concept of cardiac emergency response plans for public and nonpublic schools and for athletic events, we do not believe that the responsibilities associated with this health and safety initiative resides only in the Department of Public Instruction.

The Department of Public Instruction is not the lead state health expert and is therefore not equipped with the expertise to lead in planning for cardiac emergencies. The Department of Health and Human Services have areas that support this work, such as; School Health and Nursing, and North Dakota Cardiac System of Care.

Currently, for any school health information, the Department of Health and Human Services have the health content experts who lead school health initiatives and collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction, as necessary, to ensure the

most effective and accurate information is developed and disseminated to our schools. This collaborative approach ensures the information provided reflects the most current medical standards and practices while allowing the Department of Public Instruction to continue its focus on the primary responsibilities in education.

We would respectfully recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services, the agency with health professionals and experts in cardiac care and prevention, be added to this bill as the lead agency. The Department of Public Instruction would remain a strong collaborative partner in this process and would engage in the development of materials and support the dissemination of any developed information and materials to our schools through our various communication channels as directed or requested by the Department of Health and Human Services. I have included an attachment that provides examples of health-related information and resources that are currently provided by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction.

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee, that concludes my prepared testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you may have.