

Testimony in Opposition of HB 1472

Chairman Heinart and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the Superintendent of Alexander Public Schools in Alexander, ND. Thank you for allowing me the time to provide my testimony. I am in opposition of HB 1472 which authorizes micro schools in North Dakota without adequate oversight, accountability, or safety measures.

Unlike public schools, micro schools under HB 1472 would be exempt from state education laws, teacher certification, background checks, and safety regulations. Public school teachers are mandated reporters, all personnel in schools require a background check, and our buildings have codes to ensure student safety. Micro schools will allow 50 students to gather together for educational purposes without any of those protections that have been put in place over time to protect students. Education needs to continue to progress forward, not take a step backwards.

HB 1472 lacks the necessary oversight to ensure student safety and school choice should not come at the expense of student protection. I request a Do Not Pass on this bill.