



1 HB 1498 – Signing Bonuses – Testimony in support

2 Chairman Heinert and members of the committee. We come here today in support of HB
3 1498 which would bring back an allowability that we removed last session with an
4 adjustment to the signing bonus bill that we learned was an unintended consequence. This
5 hopefully is an easy and logical addition back into the law.

6 Last session we made an adjustment to the signing bonus law removing the first year
7 allowability which indicated it could be used for a teacher that had not taught in a ND
8 classroom last year (thereby making it their first year in a district. We shifted to a model
9 where we could incentive bonus a teacher who had been in our district at least two years. It
10 was very beneficial to add that allowability for year 2 and beyond, but what we learned is that
11 removing that had unintended consequences for our smaller schools. Hence, we are asking
12 to keep the language that is currently in law from last session and add back in the language
13 we had previously.

14 This modest adjustment will keep the current benefits last law put in place for schools and
15 bring back the competitive edge the prior language gave to our smaller districts.

16 I ask that you also support this bill and give a do-pass recommendation. Thank you!!!