

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1510
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

February 10, 2025

**By: Joe Kolosky, Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2755**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Joe Kolosky, and I am the Director of the Office of School Approval & Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 1510, a bill to aid new teachers in financial planning services, and an opportunity to offer a pathway for childcare in school buildings.

This bill is a direct response to two recommendations from Governor Burgum's Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force. Superintendent Baesler served as a voting member of this task force; I served on it as her designee. The two recommendations this bill specifically addresses are:

1. The NDDPI and Bank of North Dakota partner to create financial planning guidance for new teachers including but not limited to health insurance benefits, retirement information, and other benefit information; and,
2. Reduce barriers for schools that wish to provide childcare.

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, this concludes my prepared testimony, and I will stand for any questions.