



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

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**Testimony Before the House Education Committee  
HB 1517  
February 4, 2025**

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. On behalf of our 11,000 members, I rise today in support of HB 1517 and urge a do pass recommendation for this proposed piece of legislation.

HB 1517 would provide scholarships for student teachers of up to \$3,000. This initiative is important for supporting the next generation of educators who face significant financial challenges while completing their training.

Student teachers must balance coursework with the demanding responsibilities of classroom placement, often limiting their ability to work full-time. Scholarships would help alleviate this financial strain, allowing them to focus on their professional development. Not to mention it will lower the student loan obligation for folks in a field that are often underpaid.

Additionally, scholarships would help address the teacher shortage, especially in critical areas like math, science, and special education. By investing in student teachers, we are making a long-term investment in the quality of education for all our students. We know there is not a singular solution to mitigate the teacher shortage, but this type of investment is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the House Education Committee to issue a ***do pass*** recommendation for HB 1517.