

1 HB1533– Financial Literacy

2 Mandan Public Schools – Mike Bitz, Superintendent

3 Good morning, Chairman Heinert and members of the House
4 Education Committee. For the record, my name is Mike Bitz. I
5 am fortunate to serve as the superintendent for Mandan Public
6 Schools. Thank you for all you do to support education in ND. I
7 am here today to support HB1533 as amended. I am also speaking
8 on behalf of Aimee Copas and the North Dakota Council of
9 Educational Leaders. I will be brief.

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11 We support financial literacy. We already have a requirement in
12 ND Century Code, this bill gave us an opportunity to update those
13 curricular requirements. We do not support making financial
14 literacy a mandated offering. While some districts are currently
15 offering it as a ½ credit, in Mandan, we are embedding it in our
16 POD course. Both options work and are appropriate. Mandating
17 the offering is an unfunded mandate.

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19 We do not support using the course as a replacement for a
20 mathematics graduation requirement. We are measured far too
21 heavily in math to make further shifts in our math requirements.
22 We already adjusted these requirements for cybersecurity and
23 computer science last session.

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2 The amended version of this bill is good. It will serve students
3 well and we hope you will concur and support HB1533 as
4 amended.

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6 I will stand for any questions