

Committee Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As a North Dakota resident, Prairie Public member, employee, and long-time educator, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1255.

In my role as Education Services Manager at Prairie Public over the past eight months, I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact our organization has on schools across North Dakota. We provide free, trusted resources to educators, particularly in rural areas where educational challenges are often most acute. Through media-rich lesson plans for PreK-12 students across all subjects, hands-on materials that may otherwise be inaccessible, and high-quality professional development opportunities, we help alleviate some of the state's most pressing educational barriers.

Eliminating state funding for Prairie Public would have a direct and harmful impact on these essential programs. The loss of funding would not only affect educators but also students across the state, especially those in underserved communities. Maintaining this support is crucial to ensuring that North Dakota's students continue to benefit from the educational resources, professional development, and inclusive programs we provide. I have seen how these services empower both teachers and students, and it is vital that we continue to support them, ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Mork
Education Services Manager, Prairie Public
Fargo, ND