North Dakota
Small Organized Schools

Mr. Michael Heilman	Mr. Brandt Dick	Mr. Steven Heim
Executive Director	President	Vice-President
3144 Hampton Street	1929 N. Washington Steet. Ste.A	PO Box 256
Bismarck, ND 58504	Bismarck, ND 58501	Drake, ND 58736
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com	Brandt.Dick@k12.nd.us	Steve.heim@k12.nd.us
701-527-4621	701-415-0441	701-465-3732

Testimony in Support of HB 1387

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1387, which grants schools the necessary flexibility to either cancel classes or remain open when elections are held in school buildings, provided students can be fully separated from voters. This bill ensures both the integrity of the election process and the safety of our students without unnecessarily disrupting learning.

By allowing school boards to determine the best course of action—whether closing the school for the day or implementing measures to keep students segregated from the voting public—HB 1387 strikes a responsible balance between civic participation and student safety. It recognizes the logistical differences among school districts and empowers local decision-makers to implement the safest and most practical solution.

I urge the committee to support HB 1387 to provide schools with the flexibility needed to maintain a secure and effective learning environment while continuing to serve as polling places when necessary.

Mr. Michael Heilman – Executive Director
North Dakota Small Organized Schools
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com
701.527.4621

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The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.