

North Dakota United

Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee

HB 1510

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Bob Marthaller, representing the members of North Dakota United, and I am here to provide support and to respectfully request that the Committee give a **“Do Pass”** recommendation for HB 1510.

First, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the members of Governor Burgum’s Recruitment and Retention Task Force, especially to NDU members whose unique perspectives as frontline educators provided invaluable insights to the task force.

HB 1510 will collect necessary information to give to administrators of teacher preparation programs, enabling higher education institutions to develop quality teacher preparation curriculum and programming for individuals wishing to enter the teaching profession. School districts receiving this information will be able to better serve newly hired teachers and to better prepare local students with an interest in entering the teaching profession.

Obtaining quality childcare is a concern of many North Dakota families and those employed in the teaching profession certainly share that concern. Giving while not requiring school districts the authority to provide childcare services in a building on school grounds will potentially enhance teacher recruitment and retention. This may be particularly true in a rural district.

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, NDU also supports the study to examine the impact of crafting a health insurance pool for school

district employees. We all know that health insurance premiums continue to climb and have added to the operational costs of school districts and an increase in premiums paid by teachers and other school district personnel.

Lastly, NDU requests that the Senate Education Committee restore all or at least a portion of the funding removed by the House Appropriations Committee that would provide funding to support statewide teacher retention programs and teacher support programs operated by the Education Standards and Practices Board.

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, NDU respectfully asks for a **“Do Pass”** recommendation on HB 1510.

That concludes my remarks.