



1 **NDCEL Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2300**

2 Chairman Beard and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.  
3 On behalf of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL), I am here to express  
4 our opposition to Senate Bill 2300, which mandates the secure storage of student personal  
5 electronic devices during the school day.

6 **Local Control and Flexibility**

7 This bill removes decision-making authority from local school boards and administrators who  
8 are best positioned to establish policies that reflect the unique needs of their schools and  
9 communities. Each school district in North Dakota serves a different student population, and  
10 what works in one district may not be appropriate in another. Local boards and school leaders  
11 should retain the authority to develop reasonable and enforceable policies for managing personal  
12 electronic devices, rather than being subject to a statewide mandate. The districts that have  
13 implemented good policy have had great results. HB 1600 is a better bill to provide guidance  
14 with local control.

15 **Practical and Logistical Challenges**

16 SB 2300 presents significant logistical challenges for schools.

- 17 • **Implementation Burden:** Schools will be responsible for distributing, managing, and  
18 ensuring the security of storage containers for thousands of devices daily. This adds an  
19 administrative burden and diverts time and resources from educational priorities.
- 20 • **Storage Concerns:** The bill does not specify how schools are expected to safely store  
21 and track devices throughout the day. If students are required to keep secure containers  
22 on their person, the issue of distraction is not truly resolved.
- 23 • **Classroom Integration:** Many schools utilize devices for educational purposes. Locking  
24 up student technology may hinder access to valuable learning resources and instructional  
25 tools.

26 **Financial Concerns and Questionable Use of Funds**

27 This bill proposes a \$1.89 million appropriation for secure storage. Given the financial demands  
28 on North Dakota's education system, these funds could be better utilized to support direct student  
29 learning, teacher retention, or school security enhancements that address broader safety concerns.  
30 Mandating and funding storage containers for devices that schools may already have effective  
31 policies for managing is not a prudent investment.

32 **Existing Policies Are Working**

33 Many North Dakota schools already have established and effective policies for managing  
34 personal electronic devices in classrooms. These policies, developed in collaboration with school



1 leaders, teachers, parents, and students, strike a balance between minimizing distractions and  
2 allowing reasonable access when necessary. A statewide mandate undermines these efforts and  
3 removes local discretion.

#### 4 **Conclusion**

5 We urge the committee to reject Senate Bill 2300 and instead trust North Dakota's school leaders  
6 to continue making informed, community-based decisions about personal electronic devices.  
7 Schools need flexibility to create policies that work best for their students, rather than a one-size-  
8 fits-all mandate that introduces logistical challenges, unnecessary costs, and potential safety  
9 concerns. Again HB1600 is a good bill and should be passed.kj