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Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 2362 - February 11, 2025

Pamela Mack, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Pamela Mack and I am a Program Director with the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work, and play.

P&A fully supports the accreditation processes, which will create standards and expectations that have been researched and developed following best practices within the education system. While creating multiple options for accreditation within our school systems may allow for flexibility across school districts, this practice may create challenges that will not be helpful to students and school districts in our state. By utilizing a uniform accreditation process across all school districts, North Dakota will be able to consistently collect, interpret, and analyze data. This will result in an ability to track and trend school performance without creating an inadvertent need to start

manipulating data to compare similar information and derive conclusions. We also see movement in our state of students from one district to another. If a receiving district utilizes a different method of assessing student progress, the previous data is not meaningful to the receiving district. This also creates an inability for students and their parents to know if their child is making adequate progress, or perhaps falling behind in their learning. P&A encourages the committee to amend the bill so that a single accreditation process is selected with input from the identified entities so that a uniform system is applied across all school districts in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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