



*Great Public Schools*

*Great Public Service*

---

**Testimony Before the Senate State and Local Government Committee  
HB 1255  
Friday, March 7, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, I had looked forward to testifying in person today, but work-related travel has sadly eliminated that option. Thank you, though, for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

For the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. Additionally, I am proud to serve as a member of the Prairie Public Broadcasting board of directors. I appear before you today in opposition to HB 1255 and to urge a do not pass recommendation from the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

Madam Chair, for 60 years, Prairie Public has served communities across North Dakota as a cost-free, over the air source of high-quality programming. We are enormously proud of Prairie Public's history of providing the educational programming that helps to prepare kids for school. This programming for preschoolers is professionally researched and provides children with content that drives their curiosity and makes learning fun. Additionally, Prairie Public further serves the education community by providing free educational tools for educators. Among other things, the PPB Learning Express mobile trailer brings direct learning to schools, homeschools, and libraries in communities across North Dakota.

Members of the Committee, PPB does not limit its excellent programming to children's interests. PPB creates incredibly compelling documentaries that tell the stories of the people that shaped our state and those that continue to make North Dakota a vibrant place to earn our livings, share our cultures, and raise our children. In addition, PPB provides unbiased news to the citizens of North Dakota that helps them make informed decisions.

When HB 1255 was heard in the House Political Subdivisions Committee, the Committee members read the 123 pieces of submitted testimony in opposition to the bill, and the 5

submitted pieces of testimony in favor of the bill. What they learned, upon closer examination, was that 4 of the 5 testimonies that were submitted as being in favor actually expressed a desire for continued state funding of public broadcasting.

Committee members, HB is not a complicated bill, but it is a bill that is flawed in that it puts into statute that ND may not expend any state funds or federal funds available to the state directly or indirectly in support of public broadcasting. If our ND Department of Public Instruction or the Federal Department of Education ever wanted to work with PPB on an education related project or initiative, the total cost would have to be borne entirely by PPB due to the limitations this bill would create if enacted into law.

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, North Dakota is served well by PPB, and we are very appreciative of the investments that legislative assemblies have historically made in our organization. It is my hope that your support continues.

With that, I will conclude my testimony and urge a **do not** pass recommendation for HB 1255.