

Jim Upgren  
1/16/25  
SB 2134  
IN FAVOR

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2134  
SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**January 16, 2025**

**By: Jim Upgren, Legislative Liaison  
701-328-2244**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Chairman Roers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Legislative Liaison and Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity for the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of SB 2134.

NDCC 15-39.1-05.1(1), which lists the members of the Teacher Fund for Retirement (TFFR) Board of Trustees, lists the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a voting member of the board. We support the idea of allowing the Superintendent to appoint a designee if she is not able to attend. The Superintendent is directed to serve on over forty boards, committees, and councils and often these meetings overlap. This will ensure that, if the Superintendent has conflicts with the TFFR meeting, the department will retain its voting representation and be able to contribute ideas and fully participate in the decision making of the TFFR Board of Trustees. We request that the committee give a "Do Pass" recommendation to SB 2134.

Chairman Roers and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.