



# North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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HB 1297 – Related to infraction for firearm

Testimony in opposition

Michael Heilman – Executive Director North Dakota Small Organized School

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Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 154-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in opposition to of HB 1297.

I will be brief. In schools we try to teach children that behavior has consequences. Positive or negative, most behavior has consequences. Some are natural consequences. For example, if a child touches a hot stove the consequence is likely to cause avoidance of that behavior in the future. Other consequences are imposed by rules or laws; If I speed down the highway or roll through a stop sign, there is a consequence.

We also try to teach personal responsibility. I believe one of the biggest issues we have in this country is far too many individuals no longer take any responsibility for their actions. Consequences are reminders that our actions matter, and we are all responsible for our actions. Additionally, consequences are meant to serve as a deterrent to repeating negative or in this case illegal behavior. NDSOS believe removing the infraction does little to deter an individual, not authorized, from possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon at a school or school event. NDSOS urges a do not pass on HB 1297.

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**The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.**