



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony SB 2169
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 21, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am president of North Dakota United. On behalf of our 11,500 public employee members, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2169.

Mr. Chairman, public employees, regardless of the jobs they do, have been impacted greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. K-12 teachers and higher education faculty have had to develop distance teaching and learning protocols so their students' education could continue. Education support professionals, too, had to shift focus to make sure our schools are sanitized, and students continued to receive nutritious meals, whether they were learning from home or in school. State employees had to develop practices that allowed them to work from the safety of their homes without interrupting the outstanding service the North Dakotans expect and deserve.

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, this pandemic has not been easy for anyone and I understand that the cost of this proposal is quite high. That said, North Dakota's exceptional public employees and first responders have gone the extra mile in service to the people of North Dakota. Providing them with some token of appreciation would go a very long way in showing the state's appreciation for a job well done.

In closing, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB.2169.