



*Great Public Schools*

*Great Public Service*

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**Testimony on SB 2257  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
January 27, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, for the record I am Nick Archuleta, president of North Dakota United. ND United is a union of professionals dedicated to public service. Our members educate PK-12 students, conduct vital research, teach in our institutions of higher education, provide education support services across the educational continuum, and provide the vital public services that North Dakotans deserve and have come to expect. On behalf of our 11,500 members, I rise today in support of SB 2257 and to urge a DO PASS recommendation on this affordable and common-sense proposal.

Members of the Committee, SB 2257 provides \$3.5M to the NDDPI to help individual school districts afford after school programming that will enhance student learning, including those students who have experienced a learning gap caused by disrupted in person learning due to the COVID pandemic. Our K-12 members have told us consistently that student achievement for many students would improve if students were given the opportunity to receive more focused instruction in the areas in which they are experiencing difficulties. SB 2257 provides that opportunity. Passing SB 2257 will emphasize the commitment our state has made to educating every student that walks, runs, rolls, or is carried through our schoolhouse doors. Furthermore, it will underscore our commitment to close the achievement gap caused by interrupted face-to-face instruction.

For these reasons, Chairman Holmberg, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2257. I am happy to stand for questions.