



1 HB 1188 – Special Education Technician

2 NDCEL Testimony in support with suggested amendment from Special Education Council

3 Chairman Schaible and members of the House Education Committee. I am here today representing
4 NDCEL with specificity to one of our affiliate organizations, the Special Education Study Council
5 – your ND Special Education Directors.

6 As you’ve heard representatives of education mention throughout this session, staffing in our
7 schools is a struggle. One of the areas of the direst need and the greatest shortage is in our special
8 education classrooms. The addition of an individual who may already be serving in these
9 classrooms that could, with appropriate training and credentialing, be able to perform a greater
10 service in these classrooms without the burden of up to four years of training would be a huge
11 benefit to our schools.

12 In preparation for the support of this bill, we worked with some of our states SPED directors,
13 Superintendent Baesler and the bill sponsor relating to making it even more relevant and applicable
14 in the special education classroom. Those amendments are reflected in the 2000 version of the bill
15 and we are fully of supportive of this version. It creates a much-needed pathway to support in the
16 special education classroom as well as hopefully a pipeline of future special education teachers if
17 they should so choose to continue their education past a certificate.

18 We ask that you please consider giving the bill positive consideration and support to the bill and
19 the emergency clause include in the bill as well. Thank you.