

TESTIMONY ON HB 1356
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 24, 2021

By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of HB 1356.

NDDPI supports the idea of youth patriotic societies such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts introducing themselves and promoting their organizations to prospective members. Doing so will give students the opportunity to make an informed choice of whether or not they wish to participate in the organization.

The department also supports the idea that not all learning takes place within the walls of a classroom. For example, another bill, HB 1478 (which NDDPI supports), would allow schools to issue credit for an educational opportunity that takes place outside of the classroom. This could potentially mean that a student could receive school credit for completing an Eagle Scout project, for example. With patriotic societies having the opportunity to speak to prospective members, along with schools being able to allow projects completed by students as part of those

organizations to count for credit, HB 1356 would benefit schools, students, and the patriotic societies alike.

NDDPI supports HB 1356, and it is our hope that local school districts can work with their local scouting organizations to make these visits as convenient and least intrusive as possible in order to minimize interruptions to instructional time.

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