



March 9, 2021

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Carrie O'Rourke and I represent **yes. every kid.** We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student receives an individualized education. I am providing written testimony in support of **HB 1478 – Alternative Educational Opportunities Outside the Classroom.**

We applaud the efforts this body has taken to embrace bold and positive reform for students and families which propel North Dakota forward by empowering school leaders with the flexibility to implement innovative programs and learning models. To succeed in today's dynamic global economy, young people need different skills and mindsets that the current system was not designed to foster.

This legislation captures existing student learning and creates an eco-system of additional learning opportunities for North Dakota students, wherever and whenever they occur. Every parent knows that every child is special and unique, and deserving of an education that respects their individuality. A quality education begins with this recognition, and enables every student to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to live a purposeful and fulfilling life. The future of education in North Dakota rests in moving toward an open education system, modeled around the individuality of every student.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee, and most of all, I want to close by again applauding you, this body, and this state for putting the needs of students first and reimagining what is possible. **HB 1478** will provide the opportunity for a wide variety of experiences and educational methods that has the potential to transform a student's life – allowing all students in North Dakota to realize their full potential to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society.



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