

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2141
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 19, 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 favor of SB 2141. I will be speaking specific to sections 1 through 5 on the bill, relating to scholarships, while my colleague Mr. Stan Schauer will be speaking on the other sections.

SB 2141 would remove the identification of a single vendor in North Dakota law and allow additional assessments to be used in order to meet the requirements of various scholarships, and expand opportunities for students.

I do want to speak quickly about section 5 of the bill, which references expanding the choice of testing options for students that graduated high school in 2009-2010 for the state scholarship. I believe that this section of code (15.1-21-02.7) could be repealed in its entirety, since it only applies to students that graduated in 2010, and their scholarship eligibility would be up anyways (must use the scholarship within 6 years of graduating from high school).

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