



# North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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SB 2165 – Related to School District Ending Fund Balance

Testimony in Support

Michael Heilman – Executive Director North Dakota Small Organized School

January 19, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 154-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in support of SB 2165 with the offered amendment.

Many of the NDSOS member schools have budgets that are under \$5,000,000 and carry overs under \$1,000,000. A single large expenditure in any one of these districts would strain their budgets and seriously jeopardize cash flow. SB 2165 will allow these districts to retain impact aide funds and afford them the opportunity to gather input from district stakeholders before making decisions on how to best use these dollars. Our school leaders and school boards would prefer to have time to allow for stakeholder input, collaboration, and research into the best use of funds to benefit their districts and the students they serve.

SB 2165 will also allow much needed time for the 94 transition minimum schools to prepare, plan and budget for potential losses in revenue as transition minimum funding is gradually phased out. NDSOS supports SB 2165 with offered amendment. Thank you for your support of our schools.

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**The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.**