

1 **Written Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2219**
2 **Presented to the House Education Committee**
3 **Renee Bowen, Litchville-Marion Public School District #46**
4 **January 21, 2021**

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6 Good morning Chairman Schaible and members of the House Education Committee. For
7 the record, my name is Renee Bowen and I serve as the elementary principal for the Litchville-
8 Marion School District. I am providing written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2219.

9 The Reading Corps Program was able to be implemented in our school district during
10 the 2019-2020 school year. In that short time, we have seen an increase in student
11 achievement in the K-3 grades, but more importantly a confidence and love of reading in
12 struggling readers. There are many different programs that we are offered by companies to
13 increase reading achievement for struggling readers that are computer programs, interventions
14 taught in small groups, or a combination of these. The core of this program is a dedicated tutor
15 for each student that allows them to have 20 minutes a day of focused interventions by a
16 trained adult. In my opinion, having a one to one tutor is the reason this program works. Each
17 child that is in this program has their need met individually because of thorough testing,
18 teacher feedback, and tutor guidance.

19 My Title One, Primary, and Special Education staff feel that the Reading Corps Program
20 is essential in building strong, confident readers. Our student population for K-4 at this time is
21 64 students. Of those 64 students, 23 students were selected for the Reading Corps Program.
22 78.3% of those students are on target for growth with this intervention. According to our

23 AimsWeb Plus testing, 71% of all Kindergarten-5th grade students are at or above benchmark
24 testing and of the 3rd-5th grade students 87% are at or above benchmark.

25 I ask that you support the continuation of support for this program through a Do Pass
26 Recommendation on Senate Bill 2219. I would be open to questions and may be reached
27 through email at Renee.Bowen@k12.nd.us or through phone at (701) 762-4234.