

SB2229

Senate Education Committee

February 2, 2021

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Chair Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Brenda Zastoupil, and I serve as the Financial Aid Director of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here to recommend amendments to SB2229 to assist in the administration of the program. We have discussed these proposed amendments with Ms. Stacy Duffield to ensure the intent of the bill was correctly reflected.

- **Page 1, subsection 1:**
 - Line 9: Removes the year to provide greater flexibility should more recent versions of the locale codes become available.
 - Line 14: Corrects that student teachers are “placed” in student teaching assignments at participating districts. Rarely do they have actual contracts.
- **Page 1, subsection 2:**
 - Additional clarifying language for the policy and review process. It will be critical to involve the institutions in the application review and placement process as they possess key insight into whether a student teacher can have a successful experience teaching in a rural school district. Policy can be created in a manner that best fulfills that critical component.
- **Page 2, subsection 3 and 4:**
 - Line 7 - 13: Clarifies that students are “placed” in assignments and identifies the Dept. of Public Instruction as the agency that gathers teacher shortage and critical need areas each year.
 - Line 17: Responsibility for ensuring adequate accommodations is the responsibility of the district and can be certified through the application process. The state board of higher education would therefore not determine what is reasonable.
- **Page 2, subsection 5:** The amendments in this section, directly tie awards to cost of attendance at the institution the student is enrolled, up to \$15,000. Additionally, the amendment on line 18 provides for more than 33 awards should costs allow. It is important to note that scholarships are subject to Federal Title IV awarding rules. As students are awarded the student teacher scholarship, institutions will be required to re-evaluate eligibility for federal student aid. Awards for the entire academic year could therefore be impacted by the scholarship. Scholarships would be issued as part of the student’s financial aid package and disbursed through the student’s account.

This concludes my testimony of SB2229, and I will stand for questions from the committee.

Attachment – SB2229 mark-up