



## **North Dakota United**

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### **Testimony on HB 2046 Senate Government and Veteran Affairs Committee January 14, 2021**

Good Morning, Chairman Vedaa, and members of the Committee. For the record, I am Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I rise today to support a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2046.

SB 2046 increases both the employer and employee contribution to the Public Employee Retirement System by one percent beginning January of 2022. Currently, employees contribute 7% of their gross salary toward their retirement while the employer contributes 7.12%. If my math skills are worth anything, this legislation will raise the contribution rates to 8% for employees and 8.12% for employers. Temporary employees will see a 2% increase from 14.12% to 16.12%.

State employees very much appreciate the benefits accorded them by the state of North Dakota. They recognize that these benefits are vital to the recruitment and retention of highly skilled public employees, as do agency heads across government. Increasing the employer and employee contributions by 1% each will serve to strengthen the defined benefit retirement plan that is so important to all public employees in the Public Employee Retirement System.

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Committee, while our members do support increasing their contribution to their retirement plan, they are very concerned that paying more for retirement will eat into any salary increase that may be forthcoming, so they are, of course, hoping that they receive compensation that covers their increased contribution and still allows them to cover the cost-of-living increases.



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On behalf of the 11,500 members of ND United, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2046.

Thank you, Chairman Vedaa, and members of the Committee. I will stand for questions.