

**HB 1416**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**  
**Senator Lee - Chairwoman**

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Shawn Huss, I am a Special Education Director for the WilMac Multidistrict Special Education Unit in Northwest North Dakota. I am providing testimony on behalf of the ND Special Education Study Council (NDSESC), which is comprised of Administrators from all 32 Special Education Units across ND. The NDSESC holds a neutral position on HB 1416 contingent upon the following amendments:

Section 1 to clarify that students served under IDEA B (Special Education students ages 3-21) and existing school-based programs continue to have programs approved by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Section 3 to be removed. The intent of HB 1416 was not to effect Special Education. There were no procedural concerns from stakeholders regarding the current transition process Department of Human Services (DHS) programs to DPI programs. By leaving the IDEA B Section 619 under DPI, continuity, and consistency for families of children with special needs as well as professionals remain intact.

Section 8 add a professional representing special education as recommended by the NDCEL to the Governor's Early Childhood Education Committee. Professional representation from the Special Education field can bring forth additional expertise to the Governor's Council.

Thank you for considering these suggested amendments.

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