



1 HB 1386 – PD Local Decision

2 Testimony in Support

3 Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. We are here today  
4 speaking for the field in support of HB 1386. Schools are often looked at being the place  
5 where we can intercept, correct, or prevent any myriad of issues with students and our  
6 communities. Oftentimes the expectations of schools are far better than educating our  
7 student. We are in a place in society where schools are entrusted often with the wellness  
8 and education of the whole person.

9 With that has come (while well intentioned) a flurry of bills including mandated  
10 trainings over the years. Each year there are a couple additional requests for added  
11 training – ironically – another one was just passed recently. These trainings are ongoing  
12 and, while important, having them completed continually can be outside of the scope of  
13 what that district needs at that given time. Sometimes that professional development  
14 becomes deemed as redundant and may not be what the teachers and staff have been  
15 identified to need to best serve the students. Understanding what development teachers  
16 and staff needs is a decision that is best determined locally. The ability to be responsive  
17 to the development needs of the staff and taking advantage of each opportunity to enable  
18 that growth is critical to student success. We heard yesterday in testimony that when  
19 good professional development is offered (in the case of the interactive behavioral health  
20 training that Rep. Schreiber-Beck and Pam Sagness), and it is a need for a district, it is  
21 taken advantage of.

22 This bill leaves the determination of what professional development will take place to  
23 the local district on an annual basis. It leaves in place the opportunity to list important

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1 topics that legislatively there is concern for local consideration to implement as they are  
2 needed. As districts look at their ND Insights Data and decipher the results and needs.  
3 As such, their PD should be locally driven and relevant based on the needs determined  
4 by the locally elected school boards in partnership with their administrators and  
5 teachers.

6 From a field-based standpoint this will enable schools to spend more time in  
7 development of high-quality teaching to directly impact student learning with an  
8 ongoing consideration and implementation of the important topics that still need to be  
9 addressed. Teachers have been begging administrators around the state for this  
10 flexibility for years.

11 It was agreed that for this biennium the science of reading PD would continue and the  
12 K12 funding bill includes an appropriation to support that. Your field of educators asks  
13 for your support in allowing this local decision making to be just as valuable to you as  
14 legislators as it is for the educators trying to do the best for their students. We ask for  
15 a DO PASS on this bill.