



1 HB 1088

2 Testimony in Support

3 Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee – my
4 name is Dr. Aimee Copas and I am here representing NDCEL and our school leaders around the
5 state in support of HB 1088.

6 This bill adjusts the membership of the State Investment Board (SIB) that NDCEL believes is in
7 the best interest of North Dakota. While we are cautious in the loss of educational professionals
8 representing the Teachers’ Fund for Retirement (TFFR), we recognize that the evolution of the
9 various assets under management of the SIB suggests that a change to the membership is both
10 reasonable and appropriate. We believe that the suggested membership in HB 1088 recognizes
11 the necessary balance between funds while also continuing to prioritize the perspective of those
12 representing the pension funds.

13 It is further noted that in conversations with Dr. Rob Lech (Superintendent of the Jamestown Public
14 Schools and the representative of the school administrators) that the Governance and Policy
15 Review (GPR) Committee of the State Investment Board completed due diligence in reviewing
16 various options and making these membership revisions as a future-focused recommendation that
17 better represents all funds invested by the SIB. The State Investment Board, as a whole, also
18 approved this recommendation, as outlined in HB 1088.

19 The State Investment Board has done outstanding work for the State of North Dakota, and we are
20 appreciative that HB 1088 recognizes the important role of all perspectives in making these crucial
21 investment decisions in what is a quite successful fund supporting our educators.

22 We encourage you to consider this information as you consider this bill.

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*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education
for all students in North Dakota.*

Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler