

**Neutral Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on HB1257
in the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and am neutral on HB1257. HB1257 was “authored” (a school English teacher would have another word) in January 2023 using HB1116 as a template with a very slight unwanted modification. The work on this bill language was done by others and not the sponsors of this HB1257. The current version is so word-for-word, little effort has been expended by HB1257 sponsors, so I am unsure how well the HB1257 sponsors will be able to answer questions on its content and shepherd this bill through the legislature. I am unsure of their investment in their own bill with little expended work of their own.

I would recommend passage of the other bill, HB1116, as its sponsor and his citizen advocate are invested in the nearly identical bill language they initially authored. If the sponsors of HB1257 wanted to withdraw their bill at any point in the legislative process, the people who had the initial idea of school campaign finance legislation would have little influence to stop. Therefore, HB1116 should be supported, and I have no recommendation on HB1257.

My testimony on this bill is neutral.

Thank you,

Douglas B. Sharbono

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