



1 HB 1386 – PD Local Decision

2 Testimony in Support

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate 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. This is no different this session – in just this week
9 alone we’ve discussed science of reading training, dyslexia training, child abuse and
10 neglect training – just to name a few.

11 Each session there are a couple additional requests for added training. At the same time,
12 nothing ever seems to come off as a requirement. These trainings are ongoing and often
13 detract from what a district might need at any given time. Often this training begins to
14 feel redundant and some would say it is making us take our eye off the ball.
15 Understanding what development teachers and staff needs is a decision that is best
16 determined locally. The ability to be responsive to the development needs of the staff
17 and taking advantage of each opportunity to enable that growth is critical to student
18 success.

19 This bill leaves the determination of what professional development will take place to
20 the local district on an annual basis. It leaves in place the opportunity to list important
21 topics that legislatively there is concern for local consideration to implement as they are
22 needed. As districts look at their ND Insights Data and deciphers the results and needs.

23 As such, their PD should be locally driven and relevant based on the needs determined

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1 by the locally elected school boards in partnership with their administrators and
2 teachers.

3 From a field-based standpoint this will enable schools to spend more time in
4 development of high-quality teaching or on issues that need to be addressed to directly
5 impact student learning. Teachers have been begging administrators around the state
6 for this flexibility for years.

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

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