

Chairman Heinert and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing today to encourage you to give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1516. I would like to say first and foremost that I know school board members have a great deal of knowledge to acquire and business to act upon at each meeting. I have been fortunate in my district to have a good working relationship with many board members.

HB 1516 provides great opportunity to each district in our state for education staff to learn about board leadership process and the culture of each school board.

The relationship between staff and school boards is often portrayed as strained or contentious. A reasonable solution to these depictions is the development of an understanding between the two groups, which is the foundation of this bill.

In my own district in Jamestown, I have seen how open dialogue among board members, teachers, and administrators has facilitated many positive and thoughtful changes that have impacted all staff and students. It has created ongoing conversations in which people respect the perspectives of others and lean on their input.

I believe this bill can provide the opportunity to better recruit and retain teachers, as well as create relationships and cultures that could accelerate the many positive movements in education.

Thank you,

Cody Mickelson  
Jamestown, ND