

2023 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2032

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2032
1/17/2023

To provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
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9:30 AM Chairman Elkin opened the hearing.

Present: Chairman Elkin, Vice Chairman Beard, Senator Axtman, Senator Conley, Senator Lemm, and Senator Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Teacher shortage
- Higher education requirements
- ESSER funds
- Grants

9:29 AM Representative Mark Sanford, District 17, testified in support with no written testimony.

9:35 AM Ann Ellefson, Dir Academic Support, DPI, testified in support. #13969

Additional written testimony:

Nick Archuleta, President of North Dakota United, in support #13972

9:55 AM Chairman Elkin adjourned the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2032
1/18/2023

To provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
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11:00 AM Chairman Elkin opened meeting. Present: Chairman Elkin, Vice Chairman Beard, Senator Axtman, Senator Conley, Senator Lemm, and Senator Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Senator Axtmann moved a DO PASS and Rerefer to Appropriations.

Senator Wobbemma seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 Absent 0 Motion passed.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

11:15 AM Chairman Elkin adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2032: Education Committee (Sen. Elkin, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2032 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2032

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
2/1/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
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11:05 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on SB 2032.

Members present: **Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.**

Members absent: **Senator Sorvaag**

Discussion Topics:

- Paraprofessional to teacher program
- Higher education grants
- Teacher shortages and needs
- Student requirements
- Academic institution requirements
- Critical needs

11:06 AM Representative Sanford, introduced the bill, testified in favor, no written testimony

11:15 AM Brandt Dick, President, North Dakota Small Organized Schools testified in favor, verbally

11:17 AM Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, testified in favor, testimony # 18256

11:41 AM Chairman Bekkedahl assigned this bill to the Education and Environment Division.

Additional written testimony:

Jason Fincel, Chief Administrator, NDDSA, #18385

11:41 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Peter Gualandri on behalf of Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
2/7/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.

3:07 PM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting on SB 2032.

Members present : Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Paraprofessional program
- Teacher grants

3:08 AM Senator Schaible introduced the bill, no written testimony

3:08 AM Senator Schaible moved DO PASS.
Senator Rust seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Sorvaag will carry to the full committee.

3:09PM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
2/9/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.

10:24 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opens the meeting on SB 2032.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:24 AM Senator Schaible introduced SB 2032 verbally.

10:26 AM Senator Schaible moved DO PASS.

10:27 AM Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

10:30 AM Roll call vote

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Rust	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0

Senator **Axtman** will carry the bill.

10:30 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2032: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2032 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2032

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
3/8/2023

To provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
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11:29 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Teacher shortage
- Accredited institution grants
- DPI rules
- Program startup
- Administrative costs
- Tuition and scholarships
- State ESSR funds
- Dual licensure
- Competitive RFP
- Tribal colleges

Rep. Mark Sanford, District 17, retired school administrator, Grand Forks, introduced SB 2032, oral testimony

Lori Matzke, Superintendent, NDDPI, Testimony 21837

Michael Heilman, Executive Director, Small School Association, Testimony 21836

Nick Archuleta, ND United, Testimony 22889

Additional written testimony:

Jason Fincel, Testimony 21834

11:54 AM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
3/14/2023

To provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program

4:24 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Hoverson moved a Do Pass and Rerefer to Appropriations, seconded by Rep Conmy.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	N
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	N

11-3-0 Motion carried. Rep Hager is carrier.

4:38 PM Meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2032: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (11 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2032 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2032

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
3/23/2023

BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
--

8:42 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

All Members Present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Discussion Topics:

- Funded with ESSER Dollars
- Funding End Date
- Student Enrollment Numbers

Representative Heinert- Introduces the bill and its purpose.

Committee Discussion

9:04 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for SB 2032

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2032
4/6/2023

BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.
--

10:00 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

All Members Present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present- Representative Kempenich and Representative Brandenburg

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

Chairman Vigesaa Opens committee discussion.

Representative Sanford Move for a Do Pass

Representative Mitskog Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	A
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y

Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 20-1-2 Representative Hager will carry the bill.

10:04 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for SB 2032

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2032: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2032 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

SB 2032

TESTIMONY ON SB 2032
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
January 17, 2023

By: Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support
On behalf of Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am standing in for Laurie Matzke, Assistant State Superintendent with the NDDPI, who is unable to attend today. I am here to provide informational testimony, on behalf of the department, on Senate Bill 2032 relating to the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.

The NDDPI strongly supports this bill as it will provide the necessary funds to allow these programs to continue providing scholarships to teacher's aides and paraprofessionals currently working in our North Dakota schools to work towards and obtain a North Dakota teaching degree and help address the teacher shortage. Over the past two years, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) has funded three paraprofessional-to-teacher grants with the state's ESSER funds; however, the ESSER funds will be gone after September 30, 2024.

This program has two key priorities.

1. It targets individuals currently working in our North Dakota schools because they are more likely to remain in that school after obtaining their teaching degree. In fact,
2. It also targets individuals working as paraprofessionals or those with an associate degree allowing us to fast-track their path to becoming a teacher.

These programs allow the teacher-candidate to remain in their home community and continue to work in their school district to support themselves and their family while pursuing their teaching degree. The grant pays for their tuition and course materials. There is currently a tremendous need for these types of programs.

The teacher shortage is a pervasive problem that is affecting all states nationwide. There are approximately 9,000 teachers in North Dakota. Our most critical shortage areas include:

- Special Education K-12
- Career and Technical Education 9-12
- Counselor
- Science 9-12

The number of emergency licensure/teacher openings continues to increase across North Dakota.

- 2021-2022 school year: 497 emergency licensure/teacher
- 2022-2023 school year: 613 emergency licensure/teacher

The three paraprofessional-to-teacher programs funded with the state's ESSER funds include:

- Round One – Minot State University (awarded Fall 2020)
 - Focus on special education
 - Tuition fully funded
 - Currently enrolled: 108 candidates
 - Successfully completed and are now teaching in North Dakota Schools: 10 candidates
- Round Two – The University of Mary (awarded Spring 2022)
 - Focus on general education and rural districts
 - Tuition partially funded (one-third)

- Currently enrolled: 44 candidates
- Round Three – Valley City State University (awarded Fall 2022)
 - Focus on dual licensure
 - Tuition fully funded
 - Approximate Spring 2023 enrollment: 25 candidates
 - Approximate Fall 2023 enrollment: 25 additional candidates

These paraprofessional-to-teacher programs provide an additional pathway for aspiring educators to become licensed teachers. The program’s success is partly because these candidates are already working in a North Dakota school and invested in the community where they work.

“More than 60 percent of U.S. teachers work within 20 miles of where they went to high school.” (Greenberg Motamedi, Petrokubi, Yoon & Leong 2018)

These programs will help schools retain quality employees and fill critical positions to provide North Dakota students a high quality education.

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Committee that concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions you may have.



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee
SB 2032
January 17, 2023**

Chairman Elkin and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I am happy to offer testimony today in support of SB 2032.

The provisions of SB 2032 will facilitate moving dedicated paraprofessionals into teaching positions. The work that paraprofessionals do is absolutely crucial to the success of many of our most vulnerable students. The experiences of paraprofessionals are tremendous assets as they become teachers and serve their students and communities. The Para to Teacher program will help to ease teacher shortages in many communities across the state and is deserving of the State's investment.

For those reasons and more, we urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2032.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2032
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
February 1, 2023
By: Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support
On behalf of Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am standing in for Laurie Matzke, Assistant State Superintendent with the NDDPI, who is unable to attend today. I am here to provide informational testimony, on behalf of the department, on Senate Bill 2032 relating to the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.

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2. It also targets individuals working as paraprofessionals or those with an associate degree allowing us to fast-track their path to becoming a teacher.

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The teacher shortage is a pervasive problem that is affecting all states nationwide. There are approximately 9,000 teachers in North Dakota. Our most critical shortage areas include:

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- Science 9-12

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 - Approximate Spring 2023 enrollment: 25 candidates

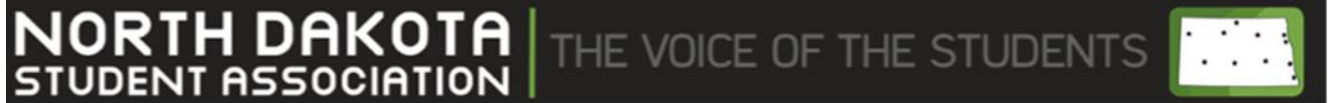
- Approximate Fall 2023 enrollment: 25 additional candidates

These paraprofessional-to-teacher programs provide an additional pathway for aspiring educators to become licensed teachers. The program's success is partly because these candidates are already working in a North Dakota school and invested in the community where they work.

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These programs will help schools retain quality employees and fill critical positions to provide North Dakota students a high-quality education.

Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Committee that concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions you may have.

**SB 2032**

January 29th, 2023

Jason Fincel, North Dakota Student Association

(605) 290-2722 | jasonfincel@ndus.edu

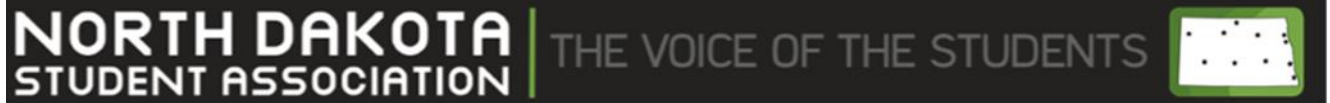
Chair Elkin and Members of the Committee: My name is Jason Fincel, and I am the Chief Administrator of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to you on behalf of our organization and the North Dakota students that it represents in support of Senate Bill No. 2032.

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy. Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy.

The North Dakota Student Association serves as a means for students to speak as a unified and collective body on matters that pertain to them. In furtherance of that objective, the NDSA passed a resolution on Saturday, November 5th, 2022, NDSA-09-2223: A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 23-25 Biennium. One of the priorities that are enumerated by the resolution is the increase of access to financial aid for NDUS students. Moreover, the North Dakota Student Association passed NDSA-08-2223: A Resolution in Support of NDUS Scholarships on Saturday, November 5th, 2022. This resolution states that the NDSA recognizes how scholarships and grants significantly eases the financial burden of students seeking a quality education and that the NDSA supports financial aid for all NDUS students, including paraprofessionals, a demographic specifically addressed by Senate Bill No. 2032. Finally, NDSA also passed NDSA-12-2223: A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher

Education Budget Allocation for the 23-25 Biennium on Saturday, January 21st, 2023. This resolution was based on the notion that NDSA supports the increased ability of NDUS students to have access to a competitive, affordable and valuable higher education degree which will increase the quality of the workforce of the state of North Dakota.

Senate Bill No. 2032 provides funding for the financial support of NDUS students seeking to become qualified teachers. Given increasing inflation and the potential of increased tuition costs, scholarships for students are an essential aspect of being able to afford a higher education degree. Senate Bill No. 2032 is a significant step in support of North Dakota students that will increase the quality and effectiveness of the workforce in North Dakota and throughout the country. This bill is in alignment with the goals of the NDSA and the best interest of the students for which NDSA advocates for. On behalf of the North Dakota Student Association, I urge the committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2032.



SB 2032

March 1st, 2023

Jason Fincel, North Dakota Student Association

(605) 290-2722 | jasonfincel@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee: My name is Jason Fincel and I am the Chief Administrator of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to you on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill No. 2032.

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy. Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy.

The North Dakota Student Association serves as a means for students to speak as a unified and collective body on matters that pertain to them. In pursuit of that objective, the NDSA passed a resolution on Saturday, November 5th, 2022, NDSA-09-2223: A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 23-25 Biennium. One of the priorities that are enumerated by the resolution is the increase of access to financial aid for NDUS students. Moreover, the North Dakota Student Association passed NDSA-08-2223: A Resolution in Support of NDUS Scholarships on Saturday, November 5th, 2022. This resolution states that the NDSA recognizes how scholarships and grants significantly eases the financial burden of students seeking a quality education. Further, the NDSA supports financial aid for all NDUS students, including paraprofessionals, a demographic specifically addressed by Senate Bill No. 2032. Finally, NDSA also passed NDSA-12-2223: A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher Education Budget

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Senate Bill No. 2032 provides funding for the financial support of NDUS students seeking to become qualified teachers. Given increasing inflation and the potential of increased tuition costs, scholarships for students are essential for many to afford a higher education degree. Senate Bill No. 2032 is a significant step in support of North Dakota students that will increase the quality and effectiveness of the workforce in North Dakota and throughout the country. This bill is in alignment with the goals of the NDSA and the best interest of the students for which NDSA advocates for. On behalf of the North Dakota Student Association, I urge the committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2032.



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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701-465-3732

SB 2032 – Testimony in Support
House Education Committee
Representative Heiner – Chairman
March 1, 2023

Chairman Heinert and member of the committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 150-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in support of SB 2032.

NDSOS was an active participant in the support and startup of one of the programs that this appropriation supports. A think tank of small school superintendents met with representatives from University of Mary and from those conversation the online elementary education program became a reality in a matter of months. The program had 44 enrollee's the first year. These individuals have been able to stay in their communities and in some cases continue to work as para-educators. What a great way to support our schools and individuals that wish to become teachers.

This bill provides much needed funds to support putting teacher in our classrooms by allowing paraprofessionals working in our schools to become teachers. We think this is a great way to help address the teacher shortage.

NDSOS asks for your support of SB 2032.

Mr. Michael Heilman – Executive Director
North Dakota Small Organized Schools
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com
701.527.4621

Board of Directors

Region 1

Mr. Tim Holte, Supt. Stanley
Mr. John Gruenberg, Supt. Powers Lake

Region 2

Mr. Jeff Hagler, Supt. North Star
Mr. Steven Heim, Anamoose & Drake

Region 3

Dr. Frank Schill, Supt. Edmore
Mr. David Wheeler, Supt. Manvel

Region 4

Mr. Brian Christopherson, Supt. New Salem
Dr. Kelly Peters, Supt. Richardton-Taylor

Region 5

Mr. Rick Diegel, Supt. Kidder Co.
Mr. Brandt Dick, Supt. Burleigh County

Region 6

Mr. Mitch Carlson, Supt. LaMoure
Dr. Steven Johnson, Supt. Lisbon

The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2032
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
March 1, 2023**

**By: Laurie Matzke, Assistant State Superintendent
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here to provide informational testimony, on behalf of the department, on Senate Bill 2032 relating to the paraprofessional-to-teacher program.

The NDDPI strongly supports this bill as it will provide the necessary funds to allow these programs to continue providing scholarships to teacher aides and paraprofessionals currently working in our North Dakota schools to work towards and obtain a North Dakota teaching degree and help address the teacher shortage. Over the past two years, the NDDPI has funded three paraprofessional-to-teacher grants with the state's ESSER funds; however, the ESSER funds will be gone after September 30, 2024.

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 - Tuition partially funded (one-third)
 - Currently enrolled: 30 candidates
- Round Three: Valley City State University (awarded Fall 2022) – \$600,000
 - Focus on dual licensure
 - Tuition fully funded
 - Currently enrolled: 30 candidates

These paraprofessional-to-teacher programs provide an additional pathway for aspiring educators to become licensed teachers. The program's success is partly because these candidates are already working in a North Dakota school and invested in the community where they work.

“More than 60 percent of U.S. teachers work within 20 miles of where they went to high school.” (Greenberg Motamedi, Petrokubi, Yoon & Leong 2018)

These programs will help schools retain quality employees and fill critical positions to provide North Dakota students with a high-quality education.

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee that concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions you may have.



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony Before the House Education Committee
SB 2032
February 8, 2023**

Chairman Heinert and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. I am happy to offer testimony today in support of SB 2032.

The provisions of SB 2032 will facilitate moving dedicated paraprofessionals into teaching positions. As you well know, Mr. Chairman, the work that paraprofessionals do is absolutely crucial to the success of many of our most vulnerable students, and beneficial to all students. The experiences of paraprofessionals are tremendous assets as they become teachers in service to their students and communities. The Para to Teacher program will help to ease teacher shortages in many communities across the state and is deserving of the State's investment.

For those reasons and more, we urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2032.