



yes. every kid. Board of Directors:

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January 12, 2021

Chairman Owens and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Carrie O'Rourke and I represent **yes. every kid.** We work to help ensure every student has access to an individualized education. And today, I am here to speak in support of **HB 1111 –Innovation Waiver Study** sponsored by Representative Pat Heinert.

We applaud the efforts this body has taken to propel North Dakota forward by empowering school leaders with the flexibility to implement innovative programs and learning models. These new models ensure a personalized approach to learning, which exposes students to a wide variety of experiences and educational methods. This approach, *the North Dakota* approach, is at the heart of an education that has the potential to transform a student's life – allowing all students to realize their full potential.

Additional legislation will be forthcoming this session that will complement these efforts by allowing the certification of a student's competency of a skill or subject, aligned to a learning continuum. This is often referred to as competency-based or mastery education. Assessing student competencies is another innovative way to ensure the cross-curricular skills and knowledge that every graduate needs to be successful in the 21st century. Tapping into that unique combination of qualities is the secret to unlocking the extraordinary potential that exists within all of us.

The legislative management study proposed in this legislation coupled with the recognition of competency scoring aligned to the learning continuum will guarantee that all students have access to innovative learning models and ensure students the opportunity to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee, and most of all, I want to close by again applauding you, this body, and this state for serving as a national leader in the future of education. You have put the needs of students first and reimagined what is possible. I look forward to working with you on this and future legislation that equips all students of all ages at all stages of life with the resources and guidance they need to forge their own path of discovery and development.



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