

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1111**  
**House Education Committee**  
**January 12, 2021**  
**by Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support**  
**(701) 328-2488**  
**Department of Public Instruction**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Ann Ellefson, Director of the Office of Academic Support of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here today representing NDDPI to provide supportive testimony for HB 1111, which provides for a legislative management study of innovative education practices and competency-based learning initiatives occurring throughout North Dakota.

During the 2017 legislative assembly, statute was established providing the state superintendent the authority to waive particular sections of the North Dakota Century Code when supported by a comprehensive, systemic plan from participating districts. These comprehensive plans required multi-year approaches and documented support from teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. This flexibility was so much more than a “waiver” from something; it was about deliberately planning, and systemically implementing a strategic plan for better delivery of education with better outcomes for North Dakota students. The flexibility

provided under this statute allows schools and districts to design and pursue alternate strategies and pathways to best meet the needs of their students.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly adopted and embraced the ND's first ever, PK-12 Education Strategic Vision: All students will graduate Choice Ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful. HB 1111 is directly aligned with the Strategic Vision's Theme of supporting "Quality Student-Centered Instruction."

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, NDDPI stands ready to assist the Legislature with this study.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.