

2015 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1388

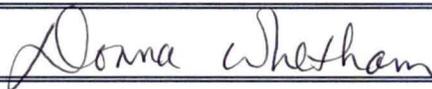
2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1388
1/27/2015
22628

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation for school district resource officer grants.

Attachment # 1-3

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: opened the hearing on HB 1388.

Representative Kiefert, District 24. introduced the HB 1388. This is the best answer to to the problem of safety for students. To have a resource officer at the schools. We could amend this at the state level to make it mandatory for all schools to have one. But then it would come down to the funding because it would take about \$75 million dollars a year to do this. I definitely prefer this bill over HB1195. (2:20)

Chairman Nathe: Did you say it would cost \$75 million dollars to fund SRO's (State Resource Officers) around the state?

Representative Kiefert: That would provide a resource officer at all the schools in the state. This bill only puts one officer per district for 15 districts and the cost would be approximately \$1 million dollars. They would be a team leader to help the schools with their protection plans.

Chairman Nathe: I don't see a reporting requirement to management would you be opposed to that?

Representative Kiefert: No I would not.

Rep. Kelsh: The larger schools have a resource officer, who pays for it?

Representative Kiefert: They have a cost share program like 60-40 % split between the school and the sheriff's department.

Christopher J. Potter: School Resource Officer from Cass County Sheriff's Office: in support of HB 1388. (7:40-13:28) (See Attachment #1).

Rep Rohr: How long did it take you to get acclimated to your new job and also the students?

Deputy Potter: It took the first year to make the transition.

Chairman Nathe: You help leaders with emergency planning rehearsals and responses how often do you do those in the school year?

Deputy Potter: (15:04) I would like to see them done three times a year, but we usually we usually see only 2, and we do the lock down drills in conjunction with fire drills.

Chairman Nathe: Do you give active shooter training to faculty?

Deputy Potter: Law enforcement receives it. We do have professional development with staff. We do not train on hide we train now on run, hide, fight.

Rep. Kelsh: I think this is a much more common sense approach than HB 1195. What is the underlying factor that has caused this to happen?

Deputy Potter: There is so many factors, entitlement, mental health, lack of empathy, but I believe it is a lack of basic human respect.

Rep Schreiber Beck: Who or what is your support system? I notice there is a resource officer association.

Deputy Potter: NASRO has been a wonderful resource, they give us ground breaking training and we meet yearly for a conference with workshops.

Rep Rohr: Do you hold debriefing sessions after an incident occurs?

Deputy Potter: We do hold those after the incident or drill, what went well and what we need to improve on.

Chairman Nathe: Do you work with other schools?

Deputy Potter: Yes we do work together with Cass County and Clay County Minnesota. We did put out a model emergency operations plan as a template that can be accessed on our Sheriff's Office website.

Chairman Nathe: You go from school to school in that Maple Valley district or are you based out of one?

Deputy Potter: I am based out Tower City at the High School, but I spend time at the two elementary schools also.

Bruce Brequet: Lobbyist Peace Officers Association. We are 100% in support of HB 1388. (21:00)- (23:43) All law enforcement officers are trained for first response, and this is invaluable when having situations. It is a specialized job, you cannot take a rookie and expect them to do this job.

Dan Donavan: Chief of Police of Bismarck Police Department (24:22- 27:21). In support of HB 1388. We have five School Resource Officers (SRO's) in Bismarck Public schools. We added one SRO for our private schools within Bismarck. It is a great program. It is all about education prevention and enforcement. We also have a threat assessment team , it is a group of law enforcement officers, swat, and along with the mental health component. It is so helpful to have trained people in the schools. If there is a threat there is an immediate response of getting the team to work on the situation. This is a necessary for safety of the students. We have a cost share. Currently we are 50-50% cost share of all associated costs with the public schools, and with the private schools we have a straight split of 60/40%. The city covers 40% of costs, salary and benefits.

Chairman Nathe: What is the cost of a SRO?

Chief Donavan: We split the cost of the actual officer that is in there. We put the experienced officers in with the right personality. Our entry level is \$46,600 dollars per year. But they are probably getting a \$50,000- \$60,000 officer.

Representative Kiefert: Just to add, we did not have a cost share in this bill , currently we are not spending any money.

Chairman Nathe: That is something we will take up with appropriations.

Dean Koppelman: Superintendent of Valley City Schools (29:05)-(35:19) In support of HB 1388. (See Attachment # 2).

Rep Zubke: If there were such positive aspects and then there wasn't enough money to support that SRO will there be school districts that say we can't afford this?

Dean Koppelman: In our case we have learned a lot by now and we want to keep a SRO in place and that would be my intent in our case.

Vice Chairman Schatz: If we did not give you any money would you and your staff be willing to reduce your salaries to keep a resource officer?

Dean Koppelman: That is a difficult question, we would look at ways that hopefully we do not have to reduce salaries.

Rep Ben Koppelman: Do you think it might require a match of some sort from the local people?

Dean Koppelman: Certainly that would be looked on favorably.

Rep. Hunsakor: Was there any parental input to try to find the money somehow to keep your SRO?

Dean Koppelman: Yes there was, but with the school finances as such we couldn't make it happen, but the community groups are still active, and we have a strong urge to have the SRO back.

Nick Archuletta : President of North Dakota United (39:45) we are in full support of HB 1388.

Brian Wolf: Superintendent of Maple Valley School. (40:35- 44:10) In support of HB 1388. With the respect for the law enforcement and the respect of the teachers, there is an instant respect if an officer is in the room. That does not always happen for the school administrators. That does help when you are dealing with unruly students. We worked with Cass County on a cost sharing for Officer Potter. We pay Cass County \$50,000 to have Office Potter's services. Our community would find a way to keep the resource officer even if the school could not afford to keep him.

Gail Schauer: Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools, DPI, (45:18)- (51:55) (See Attachment # 3) In support of HB 1388 and proposed amendments to HB 1388.

Rep Ben Koppelman: Are you testifying in favor of this bill regardless if it is amended?

Gail Schauer: Yes.

Aimee Copas: NDCEL, Our group supports HB 1388.

Jon Martinson: ND School Board Association, We also support HB 1388.

Josh Johnson: Superintendent of Oakes Public School , in support of HB 1388 (53:50)- (56:59) We believe it is so important for our students safety to have SRO in our schools. The relationships are important and it does provide the ability to deal with bullying or mental health issues. I believe the community should be involved. Our SRO also serves as a regional resource by providing training in a four county area . I fully support this bill.

Rep. Kelsh: Is the SRO in the school all the time?

Josh Johnson: He is with the school 35% of his time and the city has 65%. We would like more of a share.

Susan Beehler: Parent in Mandan: In support of HB 1388. We do have a resource officer at our school and I believe he goes to different schools. He is beloved at our school and it is a valuable service. He is trusted and I appreciate his services.

Chairman Nathe: Any support? None. Any Opposition? None.

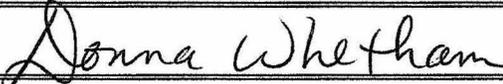
Chairman Nathe: closed the hearing on HB 1388.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1388
2/4/2015
23179

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation for school district resource officer grants.

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: reopened the hearing on HB 1388. This bill school is to appropriate for a resource officer, a little over a \$1 million dollars. The pilot program is for 15 schools for districts with fewer than 2000 students. I suggest an amendment for a reporting program to Legislative Management.

Rep Meier: I visited with my districts, with the resource officers in Bismarck I think this would be very good for the smaller schools. Where you going to propose an amendment first.

Rep. Looyzen: I move an amendment to put a reporting requirement to Legislative Management .

Rep Meier: Seconded.

Voice vote: All ayes Motion carried.

Rep. Mock: Would this be in Section 2 of the bill?

Chairman Nathe: Correct .

Rep. Looyzen: You have the testimony from Gail Sauer, second page, they had an amendment that could be proposed, if you think that \$3 million dollars is too much. Maybe this funding formula would be a little better, since it has the locals putting money in the funding also.

Chairman Nathe: I understand what you are saying, but knowing the fiscal environment in appropriation that might be a bridge too far for us.

Rep. Olson: Maybe we should cut the grants in half and get local law enforcement to pay part of it and the tax payers a part and lessen the dependence on the state. It would have a higher chance of being appropriated and approved. We could make like a matching grant.

Chairman Nathe: I think appropriations will scale it down if need be. I think it is at 2000 students and if we cut that in half we will be leaving out some of the other smaller schools. I like the bill the way it is and I think it is a good start.

Rep Meier: If this bill passes, we could see how this works and look at maybe a partnership with law enforcement as well. **Moved Do Pass as amended with rereferral to Appropriations on HB 1388.**

Rep. Looyesen: seconded.

Rep. Olson: It says a school resource officer does that restrict them to only placing one with this grant?

Chairman Nathe: I believe so, most schools only have one.

Vice Chairman Schatz: I will resist the motion, we elect a sheriff of every county and they have deputies this should be a local issue between the sheriff's department and the local schools. A million dollars is too much for me.

Rep. Rohr: I too will resist the bill because I would like some feedback from the previous bill from Representative Keifert passing the house chamber and how it would work to identify a resource within the system before we spend the money to do this.

Rep. Kelsh: I like this bill, it does help the rural schools and because the School Resouce Officer is more than an officer, he helps the children. I think we should pass it. If there is a situation this person would have training to be prepared for it. The question of liability to the school system is a concern also. I think this is a good bill.

A Roll Call Vote was taken. Yes: 10 No: 1 Absent: 2. Motion Carried.

Rep. Meier: will carry the bill.

February 5, 2015

SW
2-5-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1388

Page 1, line 1, after "grants" insert "; and to provide a legislative management report"

Page 1, line 3, after "**APPROPRIATION**" insert "- **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT**"

Page 1, line 18, after "4." insert "During the 2015-2016 interim, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the dissemination and utilization of grants under this section.

5."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/4/15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1388**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0623.01002

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Looyzen Seconded By Rep. Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe			Rep. Hunskor		
Vice Chairman Schatz			Rep. Kelsh		
Rep. Dennis Johnson			Rep. Mock		
Rep. B. Koppelman					
Rep. Looyzen					
Rep. Meier					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Rohr					
Rep. Schreiber Beck					
Rep. Zubke					

*Voice Vote
 motion passed*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

to put report in line 2

*Amendment
 motion passed.*

Date: 2/4/15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1388**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Meier Seconded By Rep Looyen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe	✓		Rep. Hunskor	✓	
Vice Chairman Schatz		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. B. Koppelman	A				
Rep. Looyen	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Olson	✓				
Rep. Rohr	A				
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 10 No 1

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep Meier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1388: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (10 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1388 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "grants" insert "; and to provide a legislative management report"

Page 1, line 3, after "**APPROPRIATION**" insert "**- LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT**"

Page 1, line 18, after "4." insert "During the 2015-2016 interim, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the dissemination and utilization of grants under this section.

5."

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

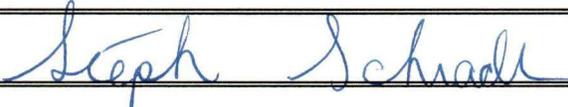
HB 1388

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1388
2/12/2015
Job # 23797

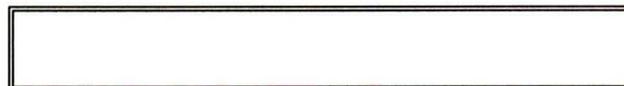
- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Related to an appropriation for school district resource officer grants; and to provide a legislative management report.

Minutes:



Rep. Mike Nathe as chair of Education spoke on the bill.
This is a pilot program to provide any school district with fewer than 2,000 students to qualify for funding for a resource officer.
If we were to fund it for all the school districts it would be \$70 million dollars per year.

Chairman Jeff Delzer
Schools having fewer than 2,000 students, that must include a large share of the school districts in the state. How is it set up?

Rep. Mike Nathe
It would be run through the Department of Public Instruction, (DPI).

Chairman Jeff Delzer
What are the qualifications of the resource officer?

Rep. Mike Nathe
Let testimony show that these are working police officers. There is a cost share between the school and the police force as far as salary and benefits go.

Chairman Jeff Delzer
How much time is he at the school?

Rep. Mike Nathe
In other schools that have a resource officer they are there all day, from 8am to the end of school. Some schools have them there every day, some have chosen to have them there certain days of the week.

House Appropriations Committee

HB1388

2/12/15

Page 2

Representative Boening

Was there any talk with these grants that a county would have several schools and split the cost, the officer would rotate in a different order so no one would know when the resource officer would be there?

Rep. Mike Nathe

No, this would be a DPI program; according to the bill, on line 15, they can only go to 15 school districts at the most. DPI would determine who was eligible for these grants.

Chairman Jeff Delzer ends hearing.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1388
2/18/2015
Job # 24076

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Seeph Schradl

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Related to an appropriation for school district resource officer grants; and to provide a legislative management report.

Minutes:

Attachments 0

Chairman Jeff Delzer opens discussion.

Chairman Jeff Delzer

Resource officers for schools; it's a million dollars, it can't do very many, 15 schools, it's all extra money to the Department of Public Instruction, (DPI), I can't support it.

Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich

I the comment was that if we funded this across the state it would be like 70 million dollars. You can do this but I don't think it's going to do any good. I move a **Do Not Pass** on this bill.

Representative Boehning

Second.

Discussion:

None.

Vote: Yes 17, No 3, Absent 3.

Motion carries.

Carrier

Representative Boehning

Date: 2/18/15

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1388

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By: Kempenich Seconded By: Boening

Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent	Representatives	Yes	No	Absent
Chairman Jeff Delzer	✓			Representative Nelson	✓			Representative Boe	✓		
Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich	✓			Representative Pollert			—	Representative Glassheim		✓	
Representative Bellew	✓			Representative Sanford	✓			Representative Guggisberg		✓	
Representative Brandenburg	✓			Representative Schmidt	✓			Representative Hogan		✓	
Representative Boehning	✓			Representative Silbernagel	✓			Representative Holman	✓		
Representative Dosch	✓			Representative Skarphol	✓						
Representative Kreidt			A	Representative Streyle	✓						
Representative Martinson			A	Representative Thoreson	✓						
Representative Monson	✓			Representative Vigesaa	✓						
	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

Totals

(Yes)	<u>17</u>
No	<u>3</u>
Absent	<u>3</u>
Grand Total	<u>23</u>

Floor Assignment: Boening

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: _____

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1388, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (17 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1388 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

HB 1388

#1 HB 1388
1/27/15

Testimony in Support of HB1388

64th Legislative Assembly

27 January, 2015

House Education Committee, Rep. Mike Nathe – Chairman

Christopher J. Potter
School Resource Deputy, Maple Valley Schools
Deputy Sheriff, Cass County Sheriff's Office
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Chairman Nathe, Members of the Committee,

Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 1388.

My name is Chris Potter. I am a Deputy Sheriff with the Cass County Sheriff's Office, and am representing the Sheriff's Office in support of this bill.

I have been a North Dakota law enforcement officer since 1993, serving the communities of Jamestown, Fargo, North Dakota State University and now the citizens of Cass County.

Over the past 9 years I have served as a School Resource Officer at Fargo South High School, as a campus police officer at NDSU, and now as a School Resource Deputy for the Maple Valley Public Schools.

To say this position is my calling and passion would be an understatement.

Last December, Representative Kiefert and I began talking about school safety - specifically about how we can best protect our kids in a rapidly changing world. HB 1388 is the result of those conversations – a way to **encourage rural school districts to start their own full-time school resource officer programs by assisting with initial start-up costs, one of the consistent barriers for smaller districts.**

Cass County currently provides two full time school resource deputies to the Northern Cass and Maple Valley school districts under a cost-sharing agreement with those districts. The main impediment to full-time positions in our remaining two districts is cost. We believe HB 1388 will provide the incentive and means to assist districts like these, throughout North Dakota, to partner-up with local law enforcement agencies, start SRO programs, and gradually take on full financial support of those positions.

The position of school resource officer is often misunderstood, even among law enforcement and education professionals. The image of a “hall monitor with a gun” could not be any further from the truth.

There are two primary, overarching objectives of an SRO program:

First, to assist school administrators, faculty and staff in maintaining a ***safe and effective learning environment*** for our children.

Second, to ***build positive, trust based relationships between students and law enforcement*** – relationships that are critical to promoting communication, understanding, cooperation and respect – tenets of a positive school climate and violence prevention strategy

To accomplish these objectives, school resource officers use the “**SRO Triad**”, a toolbox of three strategies, if you will:

1. School based law enforcement
2. Law related counseling and mentoring
3. Law related education

Although the SRO is a sworn peace officer, law enforcement actions in the schools are used sparingly and only when necessary. The roles of informal counselor, youth-mentor and educator truly define what a SRO does on a daily basis. The SRO fills many roles in the schools - a “jack of all trades”, if you will – **to leverage non-enforcement student contacts and interactions to build positive relationships** with students, parents, school personnel and other community stakeholders.

A typical day for an SRO may include:

Mediating interpersonal conflict between students;

Assisting school leaders with emergency planning, rehearsals and responses;

Classroom presentations, to include drug and alcohol prevention, safe driving strategies for teens, internet and social media safety; adolescent suicide prevention; law enforcement careers; constitutional law; police procedures, and a host of other subjects;

Monitoring hallways, lunchrooms, outdoor campus areas and school bus zones;

Intervening in a student mental health crisis;

Investigating suspected child abuse, neglect and endangerment;

Interacting with students at school events, athletic competitions, field trips, hallways and commons;

Speaking to parents, educators and other community stakeholders about youth culture, high risk behaviors and trends.

To illustrate the value of SRO programs, I would like to share with you an incident I was directly involved with at Fargo South High School:

(Text-a-Tip program, prevention of youth suicide)

HB 1388 will be the impetus for helping smaller, rural school districts start full-time SRO programs, to ensure safer schools for our children.

I would like to thank Rep. Kiefert for his support on this bill, and his efforts to promote the safety of our children and schools.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, on behalf of Sheriff Paul Laney and the Cass County Sheriff's Office, thank you for your time and this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1388.

Please let me know if you have any questions, my contact information is on the handouts.

2
HB
1388
1/27/15

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS DEAN KOPPELMAN AND I SERVE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN VALLEY CITY. I AM HERE TODAY TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1388. WE WERE ABLE TO SECURE THE SERVICES OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR ONE YEAR, SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH OUR LOCAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. THEY HAD RECEIVED SOME FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS WHICH ALLOWED FOR THIS PROGRAM. UNFORTUNATELY, WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO THE PROGRAM DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS FACING. IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR THE INDIVIDUAL FILLING THIS POSITION HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF. HE WAS QUICKLY ABLE TO GAIN A RAPPORT WITH OUR STUDENTS AND EARN THEIR TRUST, WHICH IS CRITICAL FOR THIS POSITION. OUR RESOURCE OFFICER WAS ABLE TO HELP OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS BY GOING INTO CLASSROOMS (K-12) AND VISIT WITH OUR STUDENTS ABOUT BULLYING, DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION, THE PROPER USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC. HE ALSO MADE A POINT TO BE VISIBLE AT STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, WHICH AGAIN HELPED HIM TO EARN THE RESPECT AND A POSITIVE RAPPORT WITH OUR STUDENTS. THE OFFICER WAS ABLE TO ASSIST OUR BUILDING PRINCIPALS IN A VARIETY OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE SITUATIONS, FOR WHICH OUR PRINCIPALS WERE VERY GRATEFUL. I BELIEVE IF YOU WERE TO ASK THE STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS IN THE VALLEY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IF THEY FELT HAVING A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER WAS A POSTIVE EXPERIENCE, THEIR ANSWER WOULD BE A RESOUNDING YES!! THE WORLD OF K-12 EDUCATION IS A MUCH DIFFERENT WORLD TODAY THAN IT WAS 10, 20, 30, 40 YEARS AGO. THERE ARE MANY ISSUES FACING STUDENTS TODAY AND IF YOU WERE TO PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS, IT WOULD DEFINITELY HELP TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY WITHIN SCHOOLS ACROSS OUR STATE. I DO THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 1388. I WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

#3

HB 1388

1/27/15

TESTIMONY ON HB 1388

House Education Committee

January 27, 2015

Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools

328.2265 gschauer@nd.gov

Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Education Committee – I am Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). On behalf of the Department, I am here to provide supportive testimony for HB 1388 which provides an appropriation for school resource officer grants.

I am going to provide a very brief outline of what a school resource officer (SRO) does. All of the 19 North Dakota SROs base their job responsibilities on this. The goal of an SRO is to provide safe learning environments in our schools, provide valuable resources to school staff, foster a positive relationship with our youth, and develop strategies to resolve problems affecting youth with the goal of protecting every child so they can reach their fullest potential.

The National Association of School Resource Officers, a national/international organization, promotes the “triad” concept of school-based policing which is the true and tested strength of the SRO program. The triad concept divides the SRO’s responsibilities into three areas: Teacher, Counselor, and Law Enforcement Officer. By training law enforcement to educate, counsel, and protect our school communities, SRO’s continue to lead by example and promote a positive image of law enforcement to youth.

The DPI has suggestions for two specific amendments for HB 1388; however, there is no written amendment at the request of Representative Kiefert. The funding appropriation should extend over at least two (2) biennium's. A minimum of four years is necessary to achieve the maximum outcomes allowing for state level evaluation and support to report the programs merits, value and recommendations to the legislative body and to make recommendations for continued appropriation or other funding to broaden the program to new LEAs. Two years is not sufficient to establish self-sufficiency.

A second amendment would be to change the funding amount to \$2,980,000 for 18 districts (rather than 15) with the rollout as follows:

Year 1 (July 2015 – June 2016)	
State: 80% (\$1,152,000)	LEA: 20% (\$288,000; or @ \$16,000 per district)*
Year 2 (July 2016 – June 2017)	
State: 60% (\$864,000)	LEA: 40% (\$576,000; \$32,000)*
Year 3 (July 2017 – June 2018)	
State: 40% (\$572,000)	LEA: 60% (\$864,000; \$48,000)*
Year 4 (July 2018 – June 2019)	
State: 20% (\$288,000)	LEA: 80% (\$1,152,000; \$64,000)*

TOTAL 2015-2017 biennium: \$2,066,000 (includes \$50,000 for DPI – see two paragraphs down)

TOTAL 2017-2019 biennium: \$914,000 (includes \$50,000 for DPI – see two paragraphs down)

TOTAL \$2,980,000

Salary based on \$80,000/yr.; individual funding may vary based on location, experience, etc.

* LEA portion will include 50% match from city/county law enforcement as part of eligibility.

Rural districts most in need of this opportunity will not have \$40,000 to allocate beginning July 1. Therefore, the recommendation is to have the state provide a larger portion (80%) during year one for start-up costs and the district providing 20%. With city/county law enforcement providing 50% of the match needed, the district would only need 50% of the match required. Each year the district would be expected to provide more of the funding as they recognize more merit in the program. This funding process allows each LEA to appropriately budget for increasing funds, which increase as the outcomes become more evident. Upon the conclusion of year 4, the LEA is responsible for 100% of the salary in concert with city/county law enforcement (typically a 50/50 match).

The criteria focuses on rural LEAs with less than 2000 students which includes all but nine LEAs making 169 districts eligible. The department needs funding and oversight if this program is to exist and succeed. Therefore, DPI requests \$50,000/biennium to: create guidance for Request For Proposals (RFPs), create RFPs, provide technical assistance relating to RFPs, score and award grants to districts, provide general program oversight, maintain fiscal records, determine required matches and process request for funds.

The criteria for eligible LEAs would be based upon multiple factors: student enrollment, existing school location proximity to city and/or county law enforcement, a willing partnership with city and/or county law enforcement, city/county crime statistics, LEA suspension, expulsion, truancy and other threat factors, as well as factors to be determined by stakeholders.

Hiring the right person as an SRO is critical to the success of this position and program. As best practice, there will be an education component for the SRO, which would include some mentoring with existing SRO's and the opportunity for networking, meeting and continued training with the existing SRO's through ND Fraternal Order of Police sponsored conferences.

Expected outcomes for LEAs would include documenting a decrease in related incidents in school and community; an increase in student, staff and community awareness of SRO presence; and other protective factor variables.

The DPI Safe & Healthy Schools unit applied for and received one of 25 Emergency Operations Management (EOM) grants from the US Department of Education. HB 1388 aligns well to the EOM grant which provides on-site assessment, training and follow up to 80 rural school districts and community/county partners to develop, implement and evaluate high-quality school emergency operations plans (EOPs). The North Dakota training cadre that provides this service was selected and trained by DPI and the ND Safety Council and is made up of 15 of the finest law enforcement and crisis planning individuals from across the state. The focus is on education and prevention – hazardous materials, shooter, natural disaster, etc – so that a rural school can be self-sustaining until law enforcement can be onsite.

Thank you for your time and support for HB 1388. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.