



January 13, 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 [1135](#) – Mastery Score for Scholarship bill.**

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.

HB 1135 will provide additional opportunities for students who choose a competency-based education, to allow access to North Dakota's career and technical education scholarship or the North Dakota academic scholarship. Whether students are assessed under the traditional grading scale or proficiency-based scoring, this ensures all students have the opportunity to receive the state's scholarship.

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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