

2009 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1081

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1081

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 14, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 6996

Committee Clerk Signature *Carmen Hart*

Minutes:

**Michel Hillman, North Dakota University System**, appeared for the chancellor who had to attend the appropriations committee meeting. Therefore, he did not have written testimony.

He handed out a copy of the resolution adopted by the joint boards of education September 2008. **(See Attachment 1.)** The university system is very dependent on high school

graduation requirements. Preparation in high school is the single best predictor of success in college. Every national report indicates that there are cracks in the current education system in the country. Even though the tradition and history of education in North Dakota is an inclined tradition, there is certainly room for improvement. The recommendation of the State Board of Higher Education with this bill is to help focus that discussion which we need to continue improvement.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Why does it say in a report I received here that we received a B- for preparedness for our students in college?

**Michel Hillman** stated that it is a report that does help focus some of the discussion. It clearly indicates the biases of that organization. They call themselves the National Center but they are not recognized by any government entity. How they define the issues are up to debate.

North Dakota is not doing that poorly. Although if we look at ACT scores, North Dakota has the lowest ACT scores in the region. We have a great foundation. We tend to not have high

expectations. The top 10-20% of students are going to be successful no matter what we do.

We do very well in the fourth grade and start to curtail off in the eighth grade. North Dakota has only about half of the students enrolled in high school algebra in the eighth grade as the leading state as we would expect. HB 1081 is endorsed by the State Board of Higher Education. The P-16 Council formed in 2006 came up with a comprehensive report that has been returned to many times. The P-20 Council being recommended here really focuses on those pieces that have really not moved forward in those recommendations. Those are the alignment of standards and the alignment of assessments to receive data. Research indicates that is the key for moving the state education system through.

**Rep. Bob Hunsakor:** You talked about 23% of high school graduates ready for college so that leaves 77% supposedly that are not. Many of those 77% may be going to technical schools or whatever arena they are going in to. What would you think would be an acceptable number of kids who should be ready for college? What should that number be raised to be where we should be?

**Michel Hillman:** There is strong research that indicates that preparation for career jobs outside of high school does require the same problem solving skills, communication skills, and quantitative skills as preparation for college. The argument could be made that should be 100%. About 80% of North Dakota high school graduates do go to college so that means that you have a remedial education issue in higher education. That also means that students are coming in not fully prepared and that affects their success. One statistic I am not proud of is that graduation rates are not as high as they should be. Again the best predictor of graduation is preparation coming into it. The argument could be made that should be 100%.

**Rep. Bob Hunsakor:** The 23% ready for college—when you say college, does that mean university, two-year school, trade school, that whole gamut fits into college?

**Michel Hillman:** That's all students the way ACT reads their exam. There is reading, English, math, and science. What they do is they correlate students' scores on those tests. They correlate what score does it take to have a 75% chance of getting a C or better in algebra. They come up with a cut score based on what that probability is. Only 23% of the North Dakota students are above the cut score in all four areas.

**Rep. John Wall:** I totally agree that the sectors need to be matched up. The concern I have is that I am not totally convinced that one of the problems we have is I think there is a major lack of communication between higher ed. and K-12. I am not sure it is very clearly defined what college ed. is from higher education. How will P-20 address this?

**Michel Hillman:** There are national reports on issues with education and what needs to be done with education coming out on a very regular basis. The focus of those reports tends to be what comes out of high school. This is not about finger pointing. It is about agreeing on what we should expect from our students. We need a discussion in this state to define what the high school diploma is—what does it mean to have a high school diploma in North Dakota? When an employer hires a high school diploma graduate, what does that guarantee? Mr. Hillman gave an example that Steffes Corporation in Dickinson gives every incoming North Dakota high school graduate a basic math exam. Being a North Dakota high school graduate does not guarantee basic math skills. Frankly, I don't think that should be the case. Exactly where they should be is the discussion for this council. This really gets to what North Dakota employers need in the long run. They need to be driving the agenda, not what higher education wants, but what the state needs. The question about what does preparation mean—that's really what the purpose of this council would be.

**Chairman Kelsch:** I truly believe we are a small enough state that those lines of communication should be open across the boards. I think during this last interim the

commission on education improvement did an outstanding job in addressing what needs to be done at our K-12 level. You also know that I was not real enamored with the P-16 Council that I served on previously. P was never addressed and what the commission seemed to be made up of the task force we worked on was more or less high school reform. That was a very large frustration for me. What's to say just because we put this into statute and we authorize this P-20 Council that university systems are ready for change because while there wasn't finger pointing it sure seemed like there's a lot of finger pointing back at the K-12 system and really focused on our high school reform? How many new silos do we need to create in order to get the communication flowing in the right direction?

**Michel Hillman:** Dr. Paul Johnson, Bismarck Superintendent, has research that indicates the problems are in the secondary schools. When looking at all the national reports, they focus on what is happening or not happening at the high school level. It is hard for me to say that but it really is not finger pointing. We have not worked with the high schools. We don't have a forum to really talk about what high school graduation mean in North Dakota. Again, that's what the purpose of the council is to be is to have that discussion. The university system provides most of the teachers in the state. In a large sense we are responsible. We fully support the commission on education improvement and their work has been excellent. We think that has been tremendous news to K-12 education in North Dakota. Again, where does that go from here? We think the next focus should be on the outcomes. Parents think graduating from high school means that their children are ready for college and simply that is not the case. When they don't succeed in college, then we have discussions on how higher education is failing. We would love to have better prepared students.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Did the board ever adopt a policy for recommendation to the universities that do have teaching degrees that they would offer some sort of a class or part of a class that taught the state standards for those teachers?

**Michel Hillman:** I do meet with the education deans from time to time and the discussions that I had with them are that standards are not something you have one class and this is the standard. Standards have to be incorporated within all curriculum throughout and they certainly attempt to do that. There has been a tremendous focus on standards recently.

**Rep. Lyle Hanson:** Some colleges are dropping their requirement to take the ACT test. Any talk of that in North Dakota?

**Michel Hillman:** No. We really haven't had a discussion on that. We actually had a discussion a few years ago about adopting a composition exam that was an option when you take the ACT. Composition is now a part of the SAT exam. The reason that the board did not adopt the comp ACT composition requirement was because they didn't want to have the burden of another \$12 or \$16 or whatever it was on the students.

**Rep. Lyle Hanson:** The article I read said that there was no value in the ACT test and that was why these colleges were dropping it. It probably was the private schools that were dropping it every time they wanted a higher enrollment or something.

**Michel Hillman:** There is correlation value in the ACT exam. We do have institutions that use it for admissions purposes. We do use it for placement purposes. Often times it is used for other factors such as GPA and courses taken in high school. It does have some value. If you are struggling for enrollments and you don't want to see our students leave, dropping the entrance exam is one way to look at it.

**Rep. Mike Schatz:** I notice that there are no private parochial or home school associations on there. Should they be?

**Michel Hillman:** The idea is to be as inclusive as possible. When we started getting up in the 40-44 member range, then we had to start looking at trimming the amount. There wouldn't be any opposition I don't think for the State Board of Higher Education for that representation.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Private schooling makes sense. Home schooling may not after hearing their bill in a couple of weeks.

**Rep. Jerry Kelsh:** There is a certain percentage of students who will never be ready for university system. The technical colleges are kind of left out of the mix. Yet we need those so badly. Are they kind of ignored in this proposition?

**Michel Hillman:** Financial success for individual students very much depends on having a post secondary education, not necessarily a four-year degree but having some post secondary. As you look at statistics, high school dropouts are a problem across the country. Why do students drop out? More students drop out because they aren't challenged in high school and can't make it academically. North Dakota high schools do not have the culture for academic excellence. Other states are beginning to make progress in this area. Two states, South Carolina and Oklahoma raised standards. The assumption is that when you raise standards you are going to get fewer students. Just the opposite happened.

**Rep. David Rust:** You said that students drop out because they are not challenged. Is that an opinion or is that research based?

**Michel Hillman:** That is a research based study.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** Couldn't we say it was an identifiable challenge? Is that more what the study suggested?

**Michel Hillman:** I think that is fair to say. It is tough as a parent and as a student to talk yourself into I really need that course. I agree having a clear target in terms of what we expect is certainly one of the outcomes that we will be able to work on.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** Looking at the studies regarding South Carolina and Oklahoma on seeing raised standards for admission into their higher education institutions, what is the term of that study and what are their high school graduation requirements? Were they also raised?

**Michel Hillman:** That information is also on our website. I will make that available for you.

**Rep. Phillip Mueller:** Right now we have 43-44 people on this committee and others who want on. How in the world do you have a productive meeting when you have 44 folks sitting around the table?

**Michel Hillman:** The key thing is to have the right representation. Representation that perhaps is most important is the employers in the state.

**Rep. David Rust:** The P-16 Council—where is it now?

**Chairman Kelsch:** We currently do not have one. The joint boards get together and they meet. It was based on a grant. It was initiated originally on a one-year grant.

Written testimony from **John Jankowski, St. Mary's Central High School Superintendent and President of the State Association of Non-Public Schools** was provided. (See **Attachment 2.**)

**Kristi Voeller, Principal, Martin Luther School, Bismarck**, appeared and provided the attached testimony. (See **Attachment 3.**)

**Wayne Kutzer, Director, Dept. of Career and Technical Education**, appeared and provided the attached testimony. (See **Attachment 4.**)

**Dr. Wayne Sanstead, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction**, appeared and provided the attached testimony. (See **Attachment 5.**)

**Rep. Lyle Hanson:** What is the dropout rate of North Dakota public schools?

**Dr. Sanstead:** Our rate is one of the lowest in the nations. We are in the 85% to 95% rate.



**Rep. Lyle Hanson:** Do you have a tracking system? Say a kid drops out of Mandan and enrolls at Bismarck. Do you track them there or is that a drop out of Mandan?

**Dr. Sanstead:** That is one of the things we are trying to create this session. You will note the work of the longitudinal data system which would track every student. Now that student would be declared a drop out from Mandan.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** Is there any way of tracking those students dropping out and later getting a GED? Is that figure available?

**Dr. Sanstead:** We try to do that in the fact that the GED program is part of the adult education system. We do have a large percentage who do go on. Thus the dropout rate is lower.

**Chairman Kelsch:** That is a flaw that we have in our current system—the fact that we can't track those kids. With the proposal for the new longitudinal data system, what we will be able to do is follow that child basically all through college and everything so you will know what exactly they have done. Then it won't go towards the dropout rate because if they drop out of Mandan but reenroll in another school, technically that is not a dropout. What we have now is skewed, not necessarily accurate.

**Rep. John Wall:** If this is implemented, do you think the P-20 study will thoroughly articulate what the college admission requirements are?

**Dr. Sanstead:** It was the discussion considerably over those nine months that the education taskforce met. We had a number of experts in. I think it would be a major topic of ongoing discussion by this group.

**Janet Welk, Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board,** appeared and provided the attached testimony. **(See Attachment 6.)** She asked to include representatives from business and industry on the P-20 Council.

**Chairman Kelsch:** One of my frustrations right now is the fact that business is not here today that this is important.

**Jack Dalrymple, Lt. Governor, and Chairman of Commission Education Improvement,** appeared. He was not there to testify in opposition to 1081 as just to question before the committee really the need for this statutory council. He pointed out what the commission has been doing. HB 1400 includes a recommendation that the commission on education improvement continue to work in the coming two years. You will also see in that bill a change in the composition of the commission. They are recommending the addition of two members to the commission on education improvement. One is the chancellor of higher education and a representative of employers of the state of North Dakota. They have already recommended in 1400 a number of things such as increasing the rigor and the core curriculum in high schools. You will see more types of assessments. You will see specific recommendations about improving student performance and increasing the alignment between high school and college. You will see in 1400 very much the same duties as you will see in 1081. He would recommend that you do not create another statutory council of 44 people that will be in essence redundant in terms of the recommendations that would come forward. We reached the same conclusions on the commission that the P-16 Council did. Adding 44 people does not create focus. What they really ought to do is go out and find another grant and as professionals organize themselves again as a group to advise other people on policy matters. The P-20 Council duties are similar to those listed in HB 1400.

**Dr. Doug Johnson, NDCEL,** appeared as neutral on HB 1081. He supported everything Lt. Gov. Dalrymple stated earlier.

**Greg Burns, Executive Director, NDEA,** appeared as neutral on HB 1081. They will meet with anybody anytime to discuss current education in North Dakota. He was also on the

Governor's Commission and also can't imagine working with a group of 44 people. They have similar concerns as expressed by the Lt. Governor.

The hearing was closed.

## 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1081

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 28, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8059

Committee Clerk Signature

*Carmen Hart*

Minutes:

**Vice Chair Lisa Meier** mentioned that it appeared that there were several committees that are doing the same type of work.

**Rep. John Wall:** I agree with Vice Chair Lisa Meier, and I believe I found in HB 1400 is continued in the Governor's Commission Education Improvement. According to Lt. Governor Dalrymple, one of their major points is they want to study if it is approved for the biennium is the seamless transition. I think it is redundant.

**Chairman Kelsch:** I think I am the only one here that served on the original P-16 Council. It was very little P, a dab of K, and mostly 9-12 with a lot of finger pointing at 9-12. That is where I had a real problem with the reestablishment of a P-20. I think the state of North Dakota is too small to have all these different silos. I love to see that continuum but I am not sure this is the group that takes those silos down and puts together a seamless education system. Something that was talked about at interim on the higher ed. committee was the recommendation to keep it a little bit more simple. This is weighted a little bit heavily towards higher ed. I had reams of recommendations from the P-16 Council and none of the initiatives were followed up on.

**Rep. Brenda Heller** made the motion for a **Do Not Pass**. **Rep. David Rust** seconded the motion.

**Rep. Phillip Mueller:** Rep. John Wall referenced the commission will live on. Do I recall that an additional member of that commission would be representation of more than one representative from the higher ed. system?

**Rep. David Rust:** In my notes Lt. Governor Dalrymple stated that HB 1400 increased the commission by two members, higher ed. and representative of employers.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Right and both of those are ex officio members—they are at the table but they are nonvoting. They are to address the transition from K-12 to college and also to address the education workforce needs.

**Rep. Phillip Mueller:** I do think that is significant and maybe supports Rep. Brenda Heller's motion.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Remember this also. We currently have the commission on education improvement which now the way HB1400 is written we are going to include a business member as well as the chancellor. We also have a higher ed. round table that is still in code and that met in August or September. That is made up of education, higher ed., business people, and NDEA. That is made up of quite a lot of education groups. How many of these big groups do we need?

**Rep. David Rust** referred to page 25 of HB 1400, Numbers 4 and 5 to reinforce some of the earlier statements.

**DO NOT PASS, 14 YEAS, 0 NAYS.** Rep. Karen Karls is the carrier of this bill.

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
12/22/2008

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1081

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>			\$182,791		\$182,791	
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$182,791		\$182,791	

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill establishes a P-20 education council and requires the Legislative Council to provide necessary staff services, travel expense reimbursement, and funding for other costs relating to the P-20 education council.

**B. Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The following is a brief description of the fiscal impact of the measure on the budget for the Legislative Council assuming four one-day meetings of the P-20 education council per biennium:

Funding for per diem and travel expenses for the four Legislative Assembly members of the P-20 education council - \$8,105

Funding for travel expenses for 22 members of the P-20 education council who are not employees of the state or members of a state board but who are entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses in the same manner and amounts as state officials - \$24,686

Funding for consulting and other expenses - \$150,000

Total - \$182,791

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

N/A

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The expenditure amounts reflect the "estimated" cost of providing the reimbursement of expenses and other necessary funds to support the P-20 education council. Actual costs will depend on the decisions and actions of the council.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency*

*and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

The appropriation for the Legislative Council would need to be increased by \$182,791 from the general fund for the 2009-11 biennium to provide funding for the P-20 education council.

<b>Name:</b>	Allen H. Knudson	<b>Agency:</b>	Legislative Council
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-2916	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/02/2009

Date: 1-28-09  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1081

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended

Motion Made By Rep Heller Seconded By Rep Rust

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch	✓		Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman Lisa Meier	✓		Rep. Bob Hunskor	✓	
Rep. Brenda Heller	✓		Rep. Jerry Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Karen Karls	✓		Rep. Phillip Mueller	✓	
Rep. Mike Schatz	✓		Rep. Lee Myxter	✓	
Rep. John D. Wall	✓				
Rep. David Rust	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Karls

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



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 29, 2009 10:11 a.m.

**Module No: HR-17-1185**  
**Carrier: Karls**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1081: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS**  
(14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1081 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1081

**A NORTH DAKOTA JOINT BOARDS RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A  
JOINT P-20 EDUCATION TASK FORCE  
TO ALIGN EDUCATION STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, excellence in education drives individual and state competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, state law (NDCC 15.1-01-02) charges North Dakota's four state-level education boards to jointly coordinate the state's education system; and

**WHEREAS**, the alignment of standards and the assessment of those standards is the most important education coordination issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 Education Task Force jointly established by the four boards identified the alignment of standards and the assessment of those standards as high priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the joint boards' education task force recommendations on an alignment process have not been implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota and its residents would benefit from seamless transitions among secondary education, the world of work and post-secondary education;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the joint boards establishes a new P-20 Education Task Force with membership invited from North Dakota's private business sector, each of the joint boards, the governor's office, the state legislature, statewide education groups, and teachers and students. The task force is charged with recommending a process for aligned and challenging performance standards and assessments for high school graduation, preparation for work and preparation for college including university admission requirements. The task force will make its recommendations at the joint boards' September 2009 meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**,  
Adopted this 23rd day of September, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
State Board of Career and Technical Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
State Board of Public School Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
State Board of Higher Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Education Standards and Practices Board

**House Education Committee**

**January 14, 2009**

**Testimony for HB 1081**

Representative Kelsch and House Education Committee Members

My name is John Jankowski. I'm the Superintendent of St. Mary's Central High School here in Bismarck and the President of the State Association of Non-Public Schools.

Our organization supports the passage of HB 1081 but we feel that private schools are being overlooked in this process. There are approximately 6000 students attending private schools in North Dakota and we believe that the work of the P-20 Education Council needs to take into account the education of these students.

It seems that every education group is represented in this bill except private schools. I am sure that it's a simple oversight that can be corrected before this bill leaves the Education Committee. I urge you to consider an amendment to this bill that would add representation for private schools in the state of North Dakota.

Attachment 3

January 14, 2009

House Education Committee  
HB 1081

My name is Kristi Voeller. I am the principal at Martin Luther School in Bismarck. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the State Association of Non-Public Schools (SANS), whom I am representing here today.

We support House Bill 1081, the formation of an Education Council. We kindly request an addition to the members of the proposed council with the addition of representation of the non-public schools. There are over six thousand students in the state of North Dakota attending non-public schools. We feel they are entitled to representation on the Education Council.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them.

Thank you for your time and consideration to our request.

House Education Committee  
January 14, 2009  
HB 1081

Madam Chair, members of the committee, my name is Wayne Kutzer, I am the Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. As one of the joint boards, the State Board for Career and Technical Education supports HB 1081, which would create a P-20 Education Task Force. A joint resolution supporting this Task Force was passed during the September Joint Board meeting.

This task force would be very similar to the P-16 Task Force that met throughout 2006 and had 26 recommended and prioritized strategies on education practice and policy. These recommendations were widely distributed and many have been or are now being considered. In many ways this task force broke new ground, or with many of the recommendations, brought them to a statewide formal discussion. The fourth recommendation of the task force was to create an Alignment Commission to "establish and align proficiency standards throughout P-16" (now referred to in this bill as P-20). It also broke new ground by the fact that its membership was so diverse and so large. We look at this P-20 Task Force in HB 1081 as a continuation of that effort. This board would have similar representative membership as the original board.

The original task force had 38 members with a strong representation of the business community, one from each of the eight planning districts in the state. Also on the task force were secondary and postsecondary teachers, administrators, and counselors, Native Americans, and other state agencies involved in workforce development. Admittedly this is a large group, a very large group, to try and get anything

done but it was professionally facilitated and it was able to reach a consensus on the 26 goals in just nine months.

The P-16 task force was funded by incorporating it into a federal Teacher Quality grant that was through the Governor's Office and administered by the Education Standards and Practices Board. There are funding and staffing details to be worked out yet in this legislation and I would be glad to work with the committee on it.

We all know that changing education practice and policy are difficult tasks, we found in the P-16 Task Force that the large membership brought a diversity of opinion and perspectives which was critical to gaining consensus on so many recommendations.

I ask for your support HB 1081 and would be glad to answer any questions.

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1081  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 14, 2009**

**By Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent**

**(701) 328-4570**

**Department of Public Instruction**

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Madam Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Wayne Sanstead and I am the North Dakota Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to provide support for House Bill 1081 which is a bill to establish the P-20 education council with membership invited from North Dakota's private business sector.

Staff members of the Department of Public Instruction, in collaboration with North Dakota University System personnel, the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board, the Director of Career and Technical Education and CTE staff, formed a P-16 Agency Group to continue the work of the P-16 Education Task Force. We have met on a monthly basis since December of 2006 to support the work of the Education Task Force and the Commission on Education Improvement, as it relates to adequacy.


Specific accomplishments include work with the joint boards in preparation for the 61<sup>st</sup> legislative session, including adoption of two resolutions – one to endorse the State Longitudinal Data System, and one to support Comprehensive






Career Planning for North Dakota students. The Department of Public Instruction further supports the establishment of the P-20 Education Council to jointly align challenging education performance standards and assessments and to coordinate the state's education system.

Let me say in closing, that I strongly believe it is necessary for leaders in business and industry, educators, and policy makers to find a common approach if we are to meet challenging educational issues and successfully prepare high school graduates for college admission requirements and work, North Dakota's workforce competes nationally, as well as with educated people in developing countries of the world. Together we can prepare our students for a prosperous future in North Dakota.



Madam Chair, this completes my testimony.



**Testimony on HB 1081**

By

Janet Placek Welk

Good morning, Madam Chair and Members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Janet Welk, Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board and wish to provide testimony in support of HB 1081.

Under NDCC 15.1-1-02, the Education Standards & Practices Board (ESPB) meets yearly with the other educational boards in North Dakota. Because of these meetings and discussions, the educational boards saw a need and established the P-16 Committee at their fall 2005 meeting. The P-16 Committee included representatives from education, business and industry, four educational boards, ND Legislature, Governor's Office, NDEA, NDSBA, and NDCEL and met monthly from January 2006 through September 2006. As you are aware, the P-16 made recommendations for a better educational system in North Dakota. It was because of the unique make-up of the P-16 Committee that these recommendations were made. It could not have been done if everyone was not involved and committed to a better educational system in North Dakota for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions. If you have questions after my testimony today, I can be reached at 328-9646 or [jwelk@nd.gov](mailto:jwelk@nd.gov).