

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**02/04/2019**

Revised  
 Amendment to: Engrossed SB 2250

- 1 A. **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.*

	2017-2019 Biennium		2019-2021 Biennium		2021-2023 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Appropriations</b>				\$0		

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

	2017-2019 Biennium	2019-2021 Biennium	2021-2023 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

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

Relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services

- 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.*

This bill moves the administration of Early Childhood Education Program from the Department of Commerce to Department of Public Instruction

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.*

- 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.*

All funds from the General Fund.  
 No FTE positions are affected.

- 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 or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Money was appropriated in the Department of Commerce during the 2017-2019 biennium for 1,500,000. Increase in 2019-2021 Biennium to \$3,000,000 in executive budget.

**Name:** Tara Fuhrer

**Agency:** NDDPI

**Telephone:** 328-4646

**Date Prepared:** 02/05/2019

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/14/2019**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2250

- 1 A. **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.*

	2017-2019 Biennium		2019-2021 Biennium		2021-2023 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$1,500,000			

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

	2017-2019 Biennium	2019-2021 Biennium	2021-2023 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

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**Name:** Tara Fuhrer

**Agency:** NDDPI

**Telephone:** 328-4646

**Date Prepared:** 01/18/2019

**2019 SENATE EDUCATION**

**SB 2250**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee  
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
1/23/2019  
31271

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Lynn Wolf

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services.

## Minutes:

Att. #1-Bakke; Att. # 2-Fuhrer; Att. # 3-5-Driessen;  
Att. #6-DeKok; Att. #7-Kraft.

**Chairman Schaible:** Committee will come back to order. Chairman welcomes nursing students visiting the capitol today.

**Senator Bakke:** *See Attachment # 1.*

**Tara Fuhrer, Director of the Office of Early Learning, Department of Public Instruction:** *See Attachment # 2.*

**Senator Davison:** When was the first year of the program?

**Tara Fuhrer:** 2015-16 was a planning year. All superintendents were required to call a community coalition meeting of early childhood providers across the state to determine if they would apply for these funds, what their needs were, and then the application process was released by the Department of Commerce in April and funds made available the following year.

**Senator Davison:** As we move forward, those 4 year olds are probably in kindergarten?

**Tara Fuhrer:** First grade.

**Senator Davison:** What kind of data can you share with the committee to help us understand if it has had an impact with their proficiency levels. How are we doing a comparison for those that don't attend vs. those that attend? It really isn't a dollar and cents issue at the end of the day. We really need to see if the taxpayer dollar and what we believe research shows is having an impact on these children. It would be a really strong selling point. Do think that would be available to us or are we tracking that data or how in the future are we going to know what our investment is bringing to the students.

**Tara Fuhrer:** What we do track currently is what is outlined in the current law where we use the state automated reporting system (STARS) to track the enrollment of the children and it also tracks if they are free, reduced or regular lunch. That information should be able to be pulled. Depending on what metric is looked at for an assessment type score there aren't any mandated kindergarten or first grade assessments. There isn't a mandated state assessment until third grade. We can pull those kids and do conversations with those districts that were originally funded to see what growth that kindergarten and first grade teachers are seeing.

**Senator Davison:** The argument for pre K is that this is how children come better prepared for kindergarten which is one of our goals for our state framework and that they are reading proficiently by third grade. If we are going to invest in pre K with the opportunity for them to read by third grade, do you think it would be beneficial for us to follow that data as we are approaching?

**Tara Fuhrer:** Absolutely.

**Senator Oban:** Don't you think that would be easier to do if we had all students taking readiness assessments when they enter kindergarten?

**Tara Fuhrer:** The Department of Public Instruction Office of Early Learning has been a part of a nationwide pilot. We have ND school districts that are volunteering in a Kindergarten formative assessment. The assessment helps teachers where kiddos are at the first 60 days of kindergarten coming in. It is through observation, not paper pencil. Those teachers that are able to use that formative assessment right now would in fact be able to see on a progression where the kiddos are coming in that have participated in one of these programs.

**Senator Oban:** If you could look at the districts that are using that observation, can you connect there are any districts that are using that assessment with any of the kids who have been able to be enrolled because of the state dollars we are putting into pre K?

**Tara Fuhrer:** There is one district that is using the assessment. It would be a pretty small n size.

(15:31) **Chairman Schaible:** The Commerce budget – does that include the funding for the next biennium?

**Tara Fuhrer:** I would defer to Kerri Kraft who is from the Department of Commerce. What I do know is that it is there is \$3 million within the Governor's budget for this that was from Commerce to go to Department of Public Instruction.

**Chairman Schaible:** Other questions.

**Senator Davison:** Could you tell us why it went to Commerce rather than Department of Public Instruction?

**Tara Fuhrer:** When the bill was first introduced and passed, the Department of Public Instruction didn't have an Office of Early Learning. We didn't have the capacity to hold it. Now

we've had an Office of Early Learning for the past few years, we have the capacity, we have staff in place.

**Senator Oban:** Do you have any estimates of how many four year olds there are in ND? And how many have enrolled in some sort of early childhood program whether it is private or public.

**Tara Fuhrer:** I would need to look up the number of four year olds in the state with census count.

**Senator Oban:** I assume we use those kinds of estimates to determine the number of students that will enroll in kindergarten every year.

**Chairman Schaible:** It is probably 8,000 to 9,500 students. Other questions. Thank you.

**Allison Driessen, Early Explorers Head Start & Early Head Start:** **See Attachment # 3-5.** I have also passed out two letters – one from Michelle Hougen, Director of the Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program and Mickey Berry, Administrator, Emerado Public School District. I would like to address Senator Davison's question about children's outcomes. Our program does monitor children's outcomes. We can run reports on making sure they are going to school, meet the school readiness goals that have been set with the school district after the children have left our prekindergarten program. Devils Lake Public Schools started a pilot project a few years ago where they monitored children – that are now into the sixth grade – looking at the children that were part of the prekindergarten program vs. those that were not part of the program to monitor them over time. We did have a two-year lapse because we had no service because we were operating off a Federal program and when state dollars became available, we were able to offer it again. We do have that research. It is important to realize that those are the kinds of things that take funding – having systems that can monitor child outcomes, developing systems that match our early learning standards to be able to collect this data.

**Chairman Schaible:** Thank you. Other testimony in favor of the bill.

**Amy DeKok, ND School Boards Association:** **See Attachment # 6.**

**Chairman Schaible:** School districts currently have the authority to use local funds or property tax to fund pre-K now?

**Amy DeKok:** Yes, that is specifically outlined in the section that covers early childhood programs.

**Chairman Schaible:** Thank you.

**Kerri Kraft, Program Specialist, Department of Commerce:** **See Attachment # 7.**

**Senator Davison:** How much does the Department of Commerce take out to run the grant?

**Kerri Kraft:** There are no operating costs that are affiliated with these funds.

**Senator Davison:** There are not dollars that are taken out to cover the cost – no pass through dollars.

**Kerri Kraft:** No. It comes out of the general funds of the Department of Commerce.

**Senator Davison:** Is the YMCA-Cass Clay is that with the new West Fargo opening of their kindergarten center there – that partnership there?

**Kerri Kraft:** That is correct.

**Senator Davison:** So within some of the larger school districts typically don't participate as opposed to the more rural districts?

**Kerri Kraft:** From conversations that I have had, they felt the paperwork was too cumbersome for the small amount of students that would be able to apply.

**Senator Davison:** Do you feel we have the process down after a few years?

**Kerri Kraft:** Yes, it is a very well-oiled wheel at this point.

**Senator Davison:** Is the Department of Commerce in favor of moving this program to Department of Public Instruction?

**Kerri Kraft:** The Department of Commerce is in favor of whatever the Governor's recommendation is. We support the Governor's recommendation.

**Senator Rust:** Would another reason large school districts don't apply is because there are more options in a large community?

**Kerri Kraft:** I can't speak on behalf of the larger districts, but I would agree with that. I am a mother of children who went through pre-K programs that was not affiliated with Bismarck Public Schools.

(33:07) **Senator Oban:** Can you explain the dynamic between some of these centers located on or within school building – some of them are private early learning facilities that partner with the school district. Is that how they apply and receive the funds?

**Kerri Kraft:** When the coalition was developed it had to consist of the district superintendent, school board members and any community members that wanted to be involved. During that exposure, the facilities were built to apply to be approved. Whether they were part of the initial coalition, that made them eligible to apply. If there was a daycare that didn't come to the meeting to be part of the coalition, they were not eligible to apply. For the most part, it was through the school boards.

**Senator Oban:** Is the coalition able to expand over time?

**Kerri Kraft:** Yes, every year, we require the superintendents to go back out and have public hearings or reach out to new providers in their district to come forward to see if they are eligible to apply.

**Chairman Schaible:** Thank you.

Hearing closed.

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
1/30/2019  
31765

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Lynn Wolf

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services.

## Minutes:

Att. #1-19.0960.02001

**Chairman Schaible:** Committee we're looking at SB 2250.

**Senator Oban:** I have passed out an amendment for this bill. The amendment 19.0960.2001 removes the money, but moves the program from Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction. **See Att. #1.**

**Chairman Schaible:** The money would stay like it currently is and moves the authority to the Department of Public Instruction.

**Senator Oban:** That's right. I want to be clear I want the money in there, but I am realistic enough to know ...

**Chairman Schaible:** Discussion on the amendment.

**Senator Davison:** I will move to adopt amendment 19.0960.02001 to SB 2250.

**Senator Fors:** Second.

**Chairman Schaible:** We have a motion and a second. Other discussion.

**Senator Davison:** I agree with Senator Oban, I like the dollars in there. I think we need to have better data and so we can have better support for the additional dollars. A lot of us don't need the extra data, but are many votes that still need some additional support for that. With that, I do think it is important to get it over to the Department of Public Instruction to their new Early Childhood division and do some work in that area so that we have coming into the next session probably a stronger approach to find additional dollars for this important issue.

**Chairman Schaible:** Other discussion. Hearing none, we'll have the clerk take roll on the amendment.

**Roll Call vote on the amendment 19.0960.02001. 6 Yeas; 1 Nays; 0 Absent.**

**Amendment 19.0960.02001 is adopted.**

**Senator Davison: I move to Do Pass SB 2250 as Amended.**

**Senator Oban: Second.**

**Chairman Schaible:** Discussion.

**Senator Rust:** All this bill does is move it from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction. Is that correct.

**Senator Oban:** And ask for data collection – removes the Commerce from the data collection because they will no longer be needed.

**Senator Rust:** What about lines on page 2 lines 5 through 10? They are out.

**Senator Oban:** That is already in law. Only the underlined language would have added more money to what we currently have in law.

**Senator Rust:** I am looking at that – if you cross that out, then it isn't in law.

**Senator Oban:** Entire section one – is that what you are questioning?

**Senator Rust:** I am looking at page two. Lines 5 through 10. There is no – right now, obviously, there is some money in there – right? Is there some money some other place?

**Senator Oban:** There is money in department budgets.

**Senator Rust:** There is money in Commerce. Is there going to be money in Commerce again for this or not is my question.

**Senator Oban:** I've spoken with folks at Appropriations. Right now, that is in Commerce. They know they are to move the funding from Commerce for this program to the Department of Public Instruction, but, we need the policy to follow.

**Senator Rust:** Mr. Chairman, do you need those dollars in there or don't you? That is my question. As I see it right now, when I vote on this bill, you have moved from Commerce to Superintendent of Public Instruction and you have eliminated those dollars the \$2000 and \$1000. You have eliminated that, right? So, it is no longer in law. Right?

**Senator Oban:** Mr. Chairman, section one, that we would be removing, but the non-underlined language is still in law, specifically says state monies specifically appropriated for the program. Page 1, line 13.

**Senator Rust:** Okay, you have on the amendment removed lines 5 through 22. That eliminates everything from 5 to 22. So that is not there either.

**Senator Oban:** Mr. Chairman, the language that is not underlined in pages 5 through 22 is already in law. So, we already say that any state monies specifically appropriated for the program will still be in there.

**Chairman Schaible:** I think we are looking at the same thing. David's concern is by accepting the bill without – he is worried that the money won't be there. We can do two things – we can go with it the way it is or I can have you check to make sure the existing money would stay.

**Senator Oban:** Mr. Chairman, I am happy to check. The last thing I want to do is remove the money that is already there.

**Chairman Schaible:** Exactly, so if you want to make sure that the existing money would stay. If you want to check that, we will revisit this bill this afternoon.

**Senator Davison:** Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw my motion.

**Chairman Schaible:** Senator Oban.

**Senator Oban:** Yes, I'll withdraw my second.

**Senator Rust:** Mr. Chairman, you are exactly right, the way I see it, if you remove lines 5 through 22, then unless that is in some other part of the law, that is no longer being stated and furthermore, even it was, then you would not have the guidance of the \$2000 and the \$1000 because that is removed, too.

**Senator Oban:** I will have them confirmed.

**Chairman Schaible:** That was a motion and a second for a Do Pass as Amended. We will hold that open just to make certain the language clarifies the intent of what we are trying to do. We will probably revisit it SB 2250 this afternoon.

Discussion on SB 2250 closed.

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
2/4/2019  
32040

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Lynn Wolf

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services.

## Minutes:

Att. #1-19.0962.02002

**Senator Davison:** I have been asked a couple of questions and I don't understand the questions that have been put to me. Is the House bill where the QIRS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) – I believe that is the assessment piece or is it the quality control piece? I am trying to understand the connection – I'm trying to see a bigger picture to understand what that bill is and what we are suggesting we do by moving Early Childhood to the Department of Public Instruction. Is there a connection between the two bills at all? I am trying to get some clarity on it.

**Senator Oban:** As far as I know, right now, the QRIS system is in Human Services. The money for preschool is in Commerce and since both of those things have been started, Department of Public Instruction has created the Office of Early Learning. They basically went into an agreement with Human Services to kind of implement the QRIS system, but the infrastructure didn't move with it. That is what the House bill would do. This would just move that funding that the legislature has devoted to preschool from Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction. Everything for preschool related services – both the improving providers and the funding for kids would all be in the Department of Public Instruction if both bills passed.

**Senator Davison:** I was just trying to be sure I understood what was happening.

**Senator Oban:** Mr. Chairman, good catch by Senator Rust last week when we had this discussion. They had removed the current funding and that is not what we wanted to do. So what the amendment would do is just remove the additional dollars that SB 2250 would put into SB 2250. Leave the current funding as it is which is \$2000 for each child that is enrolled in a program of early childhood if the child is eligible for free lunch; \$1000 for each child if the child is eligible for reduced lunch and then move the program from Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction.

**Chairman Schaible:** The original intention of this was to leave the existing money and then move this to the Department of Public Instruction and that is what this amendment does.

**Senator Oban:** That is what this amendment does. **See Att.#1.**

**Chairman Schaible:** If we adopt this one, the latter one takes precedence. The latter one would be the one that would go.

**Senator Oban:** Usually, they add to each other. Amendments do, don't they?

**Chairman Schaible:** Yes, and if they are conflicting, the last one takes precedence. We adopted the 2001 version, but this will change the version.

**Senator Davison:** I move we adopt the amendment to SB 2250 19.0960.02002

**Senator Elkin:** Second.

**Chairman Schaible:** Discussion.

**Senator Rust:** I see that if you look at 2001 that those words are in 2002, right?

**Chairman Schaible:** Right.

**Senator Rust:** I mean, so I don't see a conflict between 2001 and 2002 because the first three lines are the same and renumbered accordingly the same. I don't see a conflict there.

**Chairman Schaible:** I don't either.

**Senator Davison:** From a discussion point, so, the appropriation is in the Commerce budget, so have they moved the appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction? How would that process happen?

**Senator Oban:** I have had discussions and there is intention – obviously, we can't force the Appropriations committee to vote that way or for the floor to, but, the appropriation is in Commerce to be moved to Department of Public Instruction. I suppose if they chose not to do that, but we changed the policy, it is really no different than right now Commerce has the money and Department of Public Instruction still kind of facilitates the program.

**Chairman Schaible:** If Appropriations wouldn't change, I think Commerce would have to flow through the Department of Public Instruction, which would create another step, so I can't see that happening. It would go through Commerce then through Department of Public Instruction then to the schools.

**Senator Oban:** They are working on that. I know there is ...

**Senator Rust:** What exactly does this bill do?

**Senator Oban:** The bill as it was introduced would add money and also move the program to the Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction.

**Senator Rust:** Basically, the heart of the bill is on page two, item two.

**Senator Oban:** Right.

**Senator Rust:** That is what I thought.

**Senator Oban:** Correct.

**Senator Rust:** Leaves the program as is, but just moves it.

**Senator Oban:** Correct.

**Chairman Schaible:** We have a motion and a second on this amendment 19.0962.02002 for SB 2250.

**Roll call: 5 Yeas; 2 Nays; 0 Absent.**

**Amendment adopted.**

**Senator Davison:** I move a Do Pass as Amended on SB 2250 and refer to Appropriations.

**Senator Oban:** Second.

**Roll Call: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Absent.**

**Senator Oban will carry the bill.**

**Senator Oban:** Can I ask you a question – before it gets to the floor, even when the originally introduced, the title is wholly wrong. I think I would hate for somebody to read that and make their decision on it. I don't know if I can get Legislative Council ask to get that adjusted or what. It doesn't describe the bill correctly.

**Chairman Schaible:** I would think not right now, probably we could have if we would have done it before we made the motions.

**Senator Oban:** But the actual title is not –

**Chairman Schaible:** As carrier, I would make that point perfectly clear. That is the job of the carrier to explain the bill and explain the actions and then the results of the committee.

19.0960.02001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Senator Oban  
January 29, 2019

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2250

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 22

Renumber accordingly

19.0960.02002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Senator Oban  
January 30, 2019

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2250

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 22

Page 2, line 5, remove the overstrike over "~~in the amount of two thousand dollars for each child enrolled~~"

Page 2, remove the overstrike over lines 6 through 9

Page 2, line 10, remove the overstrike over "~~B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], provided~~"

Page 2, line 10, remove "if"

Renumber accordingly

SK  
1-81

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2250

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, line 2, remove "requiring public schools to provide early childhood"

Page 1, line 3, replace "education services" with "the receipt and distribution of free and reduced lunch grant funds"

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 22

Page 2, line 5, remove the overstrike over "~~in the amount of two thousand dollars for each child enrolled~~"

Page 2, remove the overstrike over lines 6 through 9

Page 2, line 10, remove the overstrike over "~~B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], provided~~"

Page 2, line 10, remove "if"

Renumber accordingly









**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2250: Education Committee (Sen. Schaible, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2250 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, line 2, remove "requiring public schools to provide early childhood"

Page 1, line 3, replace "education services" with "the receipt and distribution of free and reduced lunch grant funds"

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Page 2, line 10, remove "if"

Renumber accordingly

**2019 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2250**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
2/11/2019  
JOB # 32497

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature Alice Delzer / Carie Winings
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections of the NDCC, relating to the receipt and distribution of free and reduced lunch grant funds.

## Minutes:

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Testimony of Tara Fuhrer<br>2. Testimony of Kerri Kraft |
|--|

**Chairman Holmberg:** called the Committee to order on SB 2250. Roll call was taken. All committee members were present. Becky Deichert, OMB and Brady Larson, Legislative Council were also present.

**Chairman Holmberg:** (Discussed issues with other bills.)

**(2:35) Chairman Holmberg:** Opened the hearing on 2250. Roll call was taken. All committee members were present. Becky Deichert, OMB and Brady Larson, Legislative Council were also present.

**Tara Fuhrer, Director of the office of Early Learning:** Testified in favor of SB 2250 and provided Attachment # 1, relating to funding for public schools offering early childhood education services to only 4 year olds. (Gave examples of what the grant program looks like and how the funds are being spent.)

**(6:18) Chairman Holmberg:** So you know what is going on. The program was in commerce, and the goal is to move the program to DPI with an increase in the dollar amounts that they would receive. But, the money is in the Department of Commerce budget; which is in the House. Has the House done anything? Do you know if they did anything with the executive recommendation of \$3 million?

**Senator Poolman:** It's my understanding that it was already moved into DPI in the executive budget. So, this bill is just about changing the language to make sure that it is reflected in there. The reason that it ended up in commerce in the first place was because at that time we did not have the wonderful working relationship between DHS and DPI. In order to avoid anyone fighting over that programming, we put it in commerce. Now, everyone gets along well and have a good working relationship and it is time to put it under DPI.

**Senator Gary Lee:** I was the under the impression that this program was for those who are receiving free or reduced lunch or ones with disabilities. Where does this program generate their money from?

**Tara Fuhrer:** It is just for children whose parents decide to fill out the application for free or reduced lunch, and if they qualify, then they can turn that information into the school district. When the school district applies for this grant, then they write on the application that they have x number of families that qualify for free or reduced lunch and then those children would generate those dollars. If this particular pot of funds doesn't include or exclude any certain population of kids other than if their parents decide to fill out the free and reduced lunch form, then the school would have that information and they can submit that with their grants application.

**Senator Gary Lee:** So all of these kids that don't qualify for free and reduced lunch are going into the program? It seems like there are more kids that are going into the program than what are getting free and reduced lunch.

**Tara Fuhrer:** Yes, these school districts are already operating these program. These are just the numbers of children within those programs that qualify for free and reduced lunch. There are other children enrolled within these programs. For instance, in Bismarck Public Schools, they have 104, but only 10 of those children that do not qualify for Head Start, but qualify for free and reduced lunch, are eligible to receive those dollars.

**Senator Gary Lee:** So they are using their foundation aid fund money to pay for those kids?

**Tara Fuhrer:** There is a variety of ways in which schools fund their pre-kindergarten program. They can charge tuition, they can take donations, they can do fundraising, or apply for grants. There are federal and it is allowable for them to use their general funds not already used for kindergarten. There is a variety of funds being put together to operate the programs.

**(11:06) Senator Dever:** I am a little confused as to what the question is before this committee on this bill. Is it just to approve the transfer of the program from one agency to another?

**Chairman Holmberg:** That is what the bill does, and the economic impact, if you read the fiscal note, it does not say clearly that the money was put into the DPI budget but that is where it is.

**Senator Dever:** And we do not have the Commerce budget, but we do have DPI.

**Chairman Holmberg:** It is in DPI. The dollar amount is in SB 2013.

**Senator Robinson:** So, we are talking just language here.

**Chairman Holmberg:** All this bill does is do the transfer. The money is already in the other budget.

**V. Chairman Krebsbach:** On the fiscal note it says that during the 17-19 biennium there was \$1,500,000 to the Department of Commerce. This biennium, it is \$3 million in the executive budget.

**Chairman Holmberg:** It has already been done in their bill. It is in the bill. We can have the audience talk to us about this bill or we can dispose of this bill.

**V. Chairman Wanzek:** So, we are not changing the way the dollars are spent currently? The only reason I am asking is because I recall getting an email from some lady that was in child care that was opposing this concept. I am trying to understand what is different.

**Tara Fuhrer:** You are correct in your first statement that the way things are, are the way that they would stay. They would just be in a different department. We have collaborated with the Department of Commerce since its inception. It is pretty black and white. It's going to stay the same. I am not sure why others are opposing it.

**V. Chairman Wanzek:** Were there private child care centers that were receiving some of these dollars? And will they continue to receive them if they make application?

**Tara Fuhrer:** Yes. We have child cares that are running preschool programs and they have applied in collaboration with the school district, and we have a number of them that have chosen to apply.

**V. Chairman Wanzek:** Is there competing for the dollars?

**Tara Fuhrer:** I would defer to the Department of Commerce for that question.

**Senator Gary Lee:** In response to V. Chairman Wanzek, I have had the same kind of e mails and in my community for example, there are three new daycares that use state funds in some way to build those buildings and they offer preschool. When a the school district decides to offer a program like this, they compete directly with these free standing preschools and they take the profit away from those private based preschools, because those are the kids that are the dollar makers for the big programs. The ratio of staff to kids is a lot less then it is for newborns on up. They lose a substantial part of their margin when the school district begins to compete with private business.

**(17:02) Tara Fuhrer:** Any childcare that falls within the requirements of applying for this funding, they may apply. The way that the bill has been set up is that the superintendents each year they call a community coalition meeting, and anyone that wants to apply within their community, can apply. It's not to pit programs against each other; the reason for this is to pull the community together. If they qualify under the requirements of the law, there is nothing that stops them from being able to apply.

**Senator Gary Lee:** That is the case and I understand that, but when they do compete with each other and they go to the school program with the money, it takes the profit out of those private daycares.

**Kerri Kraft, Program Administrator for the Dept. of Commerce:** Testified in favor of SB 2250 and provided Attachment # 2, expressing the views of the Department regarding this program. (21.52) Regarding the competitive process, it is subjective. There is so much money that is allocated each school year and so it is a first come, first serve basis. If the funds are all accounted for you go on a waiting list. If funds become available, you come off the waiting list. In 2017 legislation, Head Start was removed from the program. That was impacted by about \$77,000 worth of funds. Since then the Devils Lake Head Start enhanced their collaboration with the Devils Lake public school system. So they received funding for their non- Head Start students.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Your agency has administrated this program since it's inception. Do you feel that this bill is the right way to go in transferring it to the Department of Public Instruction?

**Kerri Kraft:** We support the Governor's recommendation.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Are you going to lose your job?

**Kerri Kraft:** I don't believe so.

**Chairman Holmberg:** So, there are no FTE's involved in this bill?

**Kerri Kraft:** I do believe that right now they have me at 20% of my job is administering this program.

**Chairman Holmberg:** Is there anyone else?

**Senator Poolman:** Moved a Do Pass on SB 2250.

**Senator Bekkedahl:** Seconded.

**A Roll Call vote was taken. Yeas: 14; Nays: 0; Absent: 0. This bill goes back to the Education committee. Senator Oban will carry the bill.**

**Chairman Holmberg:** Closed the hearing on SB 2250.

Date: 2-11-2019  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2250

Senate 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 Poolman Seconded By Bekkedahl

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Grabinger	✓	
Senator Wanzek	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Poolman	✓				
Senator Bekkedahl	✓				
Senator G. Lee	✓				
Senator Dever	✓				
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator Oehlke	✓				
Senator Hogue	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sero. Obar

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

*Education*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2250, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed SB 2250 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2019 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**SB 2250**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
2/27/2019  
32933

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe

By: Elaine Stromme

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A Bill relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services

## **Minutes:**

Attachment 1, 2, 3, 4,5,6,7

**Chairman Owens:** Opened the Hearing on SB 2250

**Sen. JoNell Bakke:** (Attachment 1) end of testimony 6:45 (additional concerns regarding the bill) end 9:00 Preschool is very important.

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** The concerns from daycares on the bill, is that the smaller daycare centers are opposed to this bill and the larger daycare centers like this bill. Why?

**Sen. JoNell Bakke:** end 10:15 The Department of Commerce had it because they wanted more women out in the work force. We think this should be in the Department of Education because they are better able to deal with this.

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** Is there any change in the grants? Or how they acquire the grants?

**Sen. JoNell Bakke:** 10:30-11:30 There are no changes. In the rural areas it is difficult to find a daycare that will do preschool. Some of the larger cities are getting quite creative. Some of them operate out of the nursing homes. Some operate out of a YMCA. The public school is providing that on this grant.

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** What about the FTE's that commerce has to manage this program? Will they move over to DPI or what is going to happen with those folks.

**Sen. JoNell Bakke:** I am assuming that is what they are going to do. All they are doing right now is taking all the money that was assigned to this and they are shifting that over, I don't know what they are doing with the FTE's, I think the DPI was handling the management of the program.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** 12:30-14:00 We had a meeting and Commerce was suggesting that this program, be moved to DPI. Basically Commerce was managing the

money and coming up with the stats. They weren't providing services. Any provider that wants do this can utilize these funds. It is very broad based.

**Chairman Owens:** Any questions?

**Sen. JoNell Bakke:** end 15:25 There are a lot of kids that don't qualify for those programs, Who have just as strong a need as anyone else. There are a lot of problems that you can avoid, so when they get to kindergarten they are ready to learn those basic skills.

**Chairman Owens:** Any questions? Support?

**Tara Fuhrer, Director of Early Learning, DPI:** In support HB 2250 (Attachment 2) 16:30-19:15

**Chairman Owens:** Any Questions?

**Allison Driessen, Early Explorers Head Start and Early Head Start:** (Attachment 3)  
end -26:00

**Chairman Owens:** Any support? Opposition?

**Rebecca Forness, North Dakota Citizen:** (Attachment 4) 27:20-31:35 Was opposed to HB 2250.

**Rep. Laurie Beth Hager:** I am unfamiliar with your neighborhood co-op locally controlled and owned.

**Rebecca Forness:** 32:00-32:30

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** The study was mandated.

**Rebecca Forness:** 33:40-34:15 They do have an action plan for children 0-5 years old and this will be tax payer funded.

**Vice Chairman- Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** I disagree with your interpretation of this study. Do you believe that there should be mile stones in place so that the parents know the mile stones?

**Rebecca Forness:** 35:30-36:30 Do you mean any child or a child that was in a program?

**Vice Chairman- Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any child.

**Rebecca Forness:** I assume that they would be referred to health and human services or social services. They provide some of the oversight on early childhood at this point.

**Vice Chairman – Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** So you are opposed to having this program in the public school system? Or a public system?

**Rebecca Forness:** Yes, because I don't think that intrusion in family life is good.

**Chairman Owens:** Any opposition or neutral to HB 2250?

**Kerri Kraft, Program Specialist, Department of Commerce:** (Attachment 5) 37:45-40:30

**Chairman Owens:** Any questions?

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** Could a smaller home daycare qualify for some of these funds?

**Kerri Kraft:** 40:45-41:10 If they meet the qualifications. Yes.

**Chairman Owens:** close hearing

**Janet Bassingthwaite:** In Support of HB 2250. (Attachments 6) did not testify but was handed out.

**Linda Thorson:** In opposition to HB 2250. (Attachment 7) did not testify but was handed out.

Hearing closed.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

SB 2250  
3/13/2019  
33639

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A bill relating to the receipt and distribution of free and reduced lunch grant funds

**Minutes:**

**Chairman Owens:** SB 2250 is the bill that moves the administration of the current early childhood grants program for children eligible for free and reduced lunch from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** I'll move a **Do Pass** on S 2250.

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** Seconded.

**Chairman Owens:** Is there any discussion?

**Representative Denton Zubke:** There were three individuals who testified against the bill. I don't know if it became completely clear to me specifically why.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** The testimony was against any early childhood program. They were thinking that DPI was forcing an early childhood program which in effect is not true. This program has been in existence since 2015 and it allows those children receiving free and reduced lunch grant funds to assist with their early childhood program.

**Chairman Owens:** If the bill is killed it still stays in law. It will just stay under the Department of Commerce.

**Rep. Hoverson:** I will resist it.

**Representative Denton Zubke:** It's my understanding from the testimony that DPI has been administering the program all along. The Department of Commerce has been handling the money.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Chairman Owens and Rep. Zubke, you are correct. The program has been in existence since 2015. All the funds through the Department of Public Instruction, the Commerce Department asked during the interim

committee that it be moved because, number one – they are missing a lot of people over in the Commerce Department right now and they asked that it would be far more effective if that program was moved. They really were just handling some money and paperwork.

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** I will be resisting this motion as well. I don't think DPI should have anything to do with anything below kindergarten. Nothing to do with anything early childhood development at all.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** With the existing programs that are out there, private, public and beyond that are early childhood, you think that anyone should be monitoring? Give us an explanation as to your fear.

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** Public instruction should be public schools. If we have other programs to help out families, that's fine. It should not be DPI administering these programs. DPI should stick with DPI, K-12. At one time, DPI was only from first grade through twelfth grade and we added kindergarten on to that. Will DPI end up administering from cradle to twelfth grade? It should be from kindergarten to twelfth grade and focus their efforts into that area alone.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** As a public school employee for many years I worked with three, four and five year olds, because there are programs available. At that time, I was in Minnesota, but there were programs available in North Dakota as well and were managed by the education system of either of those states. Should we abolish those existing programs that are managed through DPI? There is a tremendous amount of misinformation out there.

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** I'm not against the programs themselves, I'm just against DPI administering the programs.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Who should administer those programs when there are federal funds coming into the states for those programs that are considering educational for the benefit of children?

**Rep. Andrew Marschall:** DPI should stick with K-12. They should not be administering other than K-12.

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** We have a choice to put it under DPI or leave it at Commerce. I heard no rationale for staying with Commerce. I don't think the cradle to twelfth grade concept applies to this bill. There is a different bill that is more pertinent to it than this bill that just moves the administration and funding issues and who gets those programs. Why would Commerce be better than DPI? We are currently deciding on whether to leave it with Commerce versus a department that is for youth, education and children.

**Rep. Longmuir:** Rep. Hager, this originally came up as an economic development program about 15-20 years ago. What they were looking for was to have daycare programs in place so that it would afford mothers or stay-at-home dads the opportunity to go to work. That's how it ended up in Commerce. It came as an economic development bill. It was never an education type thing, they wanted daycare services. They did it because of workforce

development. I feel it is more appropriate to have it in DPI where there is an educational background versus a commerce background. It is two different tactics.

**Rep. Hoverson:** Using the term 'fears', there is legitimate concern. DPI already has standards on their website for birth to five years old. At some point, it is time to draw the line and this is one of those times. I encourage a 'red' vote.

**Rep. Brandy Pyle:** When we look at this piece of legislation in context with everything else and we talk about efficiency of government, DPI administers the program and Commerce handles the funds. If they are able to do it in one agency, are we creating more efficiency that way instead of having to run to different floors, create more emails, spend more time waiting back and forth? How do you disperse federal funds on the city side when you get federal funds? It is done through the state and then they are allocated to the counties and then the counties to the cities, etc. That is the flow of money from the government. The federally-funded Head Start programs are done that way. How can those programs continue if we don't run them through the state agency? Most of our preschool programs are private.

**Rep. Michelle Strinden:** I will be voting no on this because of a philosophical difference and I do see the slippery slope that Rep. Hoverson is referencing. I want to make a clear distinction with DPI that I think it is a philosophical position that needs to be reinforced. There seems to be this desire of DPI to inch towards these preschool levels – it is a pre-K through 12 vision. I'm wondering why is their vision a pre-K through 12 vision? There needs to be a clear line established. I'll be voting no on this one.

**Rep. Daniel Johnston:** I look at kindergarten as preschool as well. It's not compulsory, yet 89% of our kids are enrolled in it. Now it's become a taxpayer funded entity. I'm going to resist the motion as well.

**Chairman Owens:** Any further discussion?

**Rep. Dennis Johnson:** The program talked about by Rep. Longmuir was established and the money was handled by Commerce, so do we need to amend the bill to send the handling of the money to the Ag Department or DOT? That's what we are doing, especially the finances to DPI.

**Chairman Owens:** This was created in 2015, and in 2017 we amended it to where you could not double count Head Start kids like we knew several places were doing. Also, we put it as no one any younger than 4 years old by August 1. That was not in there until it was done in 2017. This is one of those programs that will be coming back to us every year with a change.

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** I have a son with disabilities who, had he been in a program that would have looked at standards, his life may have been changed at an early age. Since we were talking about cradle to college, sometimes that is where that 'creep' is important where someone with a different perspective than a parent can observe it and they can meet the challenges before first grade. Having programs for early childhood in the vicinity of where they will end up for the next 12-13 years of their lives is something to consider.

**Chairman Owens:** Last session we had a bill where if you are on an IEP or 504 Plan, then three year olds were federally funded to be in the program. That was where three year olds who were not on those programs are out of it. There are programs in North Dakota we are using for that very thing.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** As a body that adheres and administers the funds, there can be no creep if the funds are not there. That's where I find it very difficult. This is the body that administers the funds. DPI can do nothing on their own.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** Do you know for Head Start if that is a direct grant to them? There is no middle man that administers it?

**Chairman Owens:** DPI took over Head Start in the state of North Dakota about 2-2 ½ years ago.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** The Commerce Department is administering the free and reduced lunch for Head Start?

**Chairman Owens:** No, just the state grant program.

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** Does DPI administer Head Start free and reduced lunch?

**Chairman Owens:** They administer Head Start. I can't answer your question about free and reduced lunch. I would imagine it's all included, because they have taken over Head Start.

**Bob Marthaller, former Assistant Superintendent, DPI:** The free and reduced lunch program is administered and has been for a long time through DPI. It comes federal from the Agriculture Department.

**Chairman Owens:** Any further discussion?

A **Roll Call Vote** was taken: **Yes 10, No 4, Absent 0**. A **Do Pass** carries. **Rep. Zubke** will carry SB 2250.

Closed hearing.

Date: 3-13-19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2250**

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 M. Johnson Seconded By Rep L.B. Hager

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens	✓		Rep. Guggisberg	✓	
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck	✓		Rep. Hager	✓	
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Hoverson		✓			
Rep. D. Johnson	✓				
Rep. M. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Johnston		✓			
Rep. Longmuir	✓				
Rep. Marschall		✓			
Rep. Pyle	✓				
Rep. Strinden		✓			
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 10 No 4

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Zubke

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2250, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2250 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2250**

SB2250  
6-23-19  
AH #1  
p1 of 2

Testimony on SB2250

Senator JoNell Bakke

Preschool services have been presented to the North Dakota Legislature every session during the last decade. The research has been overwhelming in the benefits that come with preschool services and parents are actively seeking out preschool opportunities for their children. However, private preschool services are expensive, and schools often don't have the money nor space to provide services.

North Dakota does have a pilot preschool grant program which has been very successful. Specific enrollment for this current school year is 1,582 Children. SB2250 would continue this grant program but put the program under the Department of Public Instruction rather than Commerce. It would also provide districts that are participating with additional and much needed funds to support this program.

At this time, a district receives \$500 every quarter or \$2,000 a year for a student who would qualify for a free lunch program and \$250 every quarter or \$1,000 a year for a student who would qualify for a reduced lunch program. They receive no funds for other children in the program. Currently 524 children enrolled are eligible for Free Lunch, 83 children eligible for Reduced Lunch, and 975 children enrolled that are not eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch.

The Department of Commerce received \$3 million for this pilot program. Below are the 2015-2017 biennium budget breakdown for this appropriation.

- Year one was for planning and year two was for funding eligible facilities.
- 2016-2017 school year; 44 facilities were funded for a total of \$516,218 - Averaging \$11,732 per facility
- 2017-2019 biennium Commerce received \$1.5 million (with carryover of unspent funds from the previous biennium)
- 2017-2018 school year; 46 facilities were funded for a total of \$531,819 - Averaging \$11,516 per facility
- 2018-2019 school year; 49 facilities are to be funded; currently in the process of requesting reimbursements for quarter 2. An estimated projection for the end of the school year is to fund a total of \$592,000 - Averaging \$12,081 per facility

Those programs are operating on a shoe string and at a loss for most districts. These funds do not even cover the cost of the preschool teacher let alone the supplies and cost of the facility.

SB2250 would address the underfunding of these services by increasing these amounts to \$3,000 for who would qualify for free lunch, \$2,000 for students who qualify for reduced lunch, and \$1,000 for all other children enrolled. This additional funding come to an increase of approximately 1.5 million for this preschool grant program. This would ensure that our youngest students get a good, solid start in preparing them for school.

That concludes my testimony at this time and I would stand for questions.

SB2250  
 1-23-19  
 AH #1  
 p 2 of 2

Current Funding			SB2250 Funding			Additional Funds	
Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	Other Students	Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	Other Students		
524 X 2,000 = 1,048,00	83 X 1,000 = 83,000	975 X 0 = 0	524 X 3,000 = 1,572,000	83 X 2,000 = 166,000	975 X 1,000 = 975,000		
	TOTAL	1,131,000			2,713,000		\$1,582,000

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2250  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 23, 2019**

**By: Tara Fuhrer, Director of Early Learning  
701-328-4646**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Fuhrer and I am the Director of the Office of Early Learning with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of, and to provide information regarding SB 2250, relating to funding for public schools offering early childhood education services.

The Early Childhood Education Grant Program was implemented and administered through the Department of Commerce during the 2015-2017 biennium as a way to bring communities together to better serve four-year-old children enrolled in Department of Public Instruction Approved Pre-kindergarten classrooms. The Department of Commerce, with support from the Department of Public Instruction, released year one planning guidance and the grant application; in year two reviewed applications and awarded 44 programs; and during the current 2017-2019 biennium 46 and 49 entities were awarded respectfully.

Specifically, during our current 2018-2019 school year, the 49 entities the Department of Commerce awarded serves approximately 1,582 four-year-olds. 524

qualified for Free Lunch; 83 qualify for Reduced Lunch; and 975 are enrolled but do not qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

I would like to briefly give you current examples of what the grant program looks like and how the funds are being spent. Emerado Public School District has 20 four-year-olds enrolled that qualify for Free Lunch and they are funded at \$40,000 this year. Pingree-Buchanan Public School District has 18 children enrolled, one that is eligible for Free Lunch and two that are eligible for Reduced Lunch and generates \$4,000 this year. Alexander Public School District has 14 four-year-olds enrolled two qualify for Free Lunch and two for Reduced lunch and generates \$6,000 this year. These, as well as the other awarded programs, use the funds to off-set the salary and benefits of a North Dakota Licensed Teacher qualified to teach pre-kindergarten by the Education Standards and Practices Board. Differently, however allowable, Bismarck Public School District has 104 four-year-olds enrolled and 10 children are eligible, five that qualify for Free Lunch, five that qualify for Reduced Lunch, and are funded at \$15,000. Bismarck is choosing to use the funds to open slots for 10 children who are on the Head Start waitlist that would not otherwise be served, therefore helping to meet a community need.

By expanding the amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for families who qualify for Free Lunch, \$1,000 to \$2,000 for families that qualify for Reduced Lunch and the addition of \$1,000 for four-year-old children not eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch,

SB 22.50  
1-23-19  
A.H.#2  
P3 of 3

will offer support to the 108 eligible School Districts that choose to be organized and Approved to offer Pre-kindergarten in their district.

It is important to note the dollars currently appropriated will be sufficient to fund the current number of four-year-old children enrolled in the district's choosing to participate in the Early Childhood Grant Program.

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee, this concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2250 to increase the funding for pre-kindergarten programs. My name is Allison Driessen. My agency partners with the Devils Lake Public Schools to operate the district's prekindergarten program.

Quality early learning benefits students, schools and communities. Legislators have heard countless reports of the importance of early childhood education services and unique opportunity we have in "getting it right" in a child's brain development in the first five years of live. According to the PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework released by the Department of Public Instruction in July 2018, increasing students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn was one of the six overarching goals of the framework. The framework identified that outcomes will be improved through focused efforts with the following strategic themes- quality early childhood education, - support for safe and healthy behaviors, career exploration, quality education personnel, and quality instruction for personalized learning. Increasing funding to pre-kindergarten will extend opportunities to children to enter school ready to learn.

According to the ND Department of Public Instruction website, 89 school districts or partnerships are approved to operate an approved pre-kindergarten program. Programs must comply ensure a highly qualified teacher, school board approval, fire inspection, meet the minimum operations requirements of 400 hours over 32 weeks, assurance that the district will meet the ND Early Learning Standards, provide 10 hours parent involvement and require program to participate in STARS.

Pre-kindergarten state funds have been available for three years and the Devils Lake program has operated for two years. The classroom operates Monday-Thursday from 8:30-3:00 offering 24 hours of service per week. After two years many important lessons have been learned:

- Districts or partners offering the minimum requirement of 12 hours per week does not meet the needs of working parents. It causes difficulty for transportation, extra transitions for students and is not an option for most low income or working families. Additional funding could add hours of service for districts.
- Without additional funding support, it is difficult to hire qualified staff. We were unable to open the first year because we could not meet the qualifications based on salaries. The Devils Lake Pre-Kindergarten program could not exist solely on the state reimbursement and parent tuition. Many school districts cannot afford to offer pre-kindergarten programs and the funding is not enough for community partners to meet all the requirements.
- According to the Update to the Interim Education Policy Committee in November 2017, the Greenway Strategy Group stated that after interviewing school administrators their top concerns were behavioral health issues, achievement among students from low income families and achievement among students with disabilities. Pre-kindergarten programs provide early intervention to all three concerns.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the committee and look forward to working closely with the Department of Public Instruction, local school districts and the child care community to ensure all children, regardless of income, have access to high quality early learning experiences that will school readiness and future academic success.

Allison Driessen

Early Explorers Head Start & Early Head Start

1401 College Drive North

Devils Lake, ND 58301

[allison.driessen@k12.nd.us](mailto:allison.driessen@k12.nd.us)

701-739-2395



**BISMARCK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*College, career,  
community ready*

## **Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program**

720 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 323-4400  
Fax: (701) 323-4405  
[www.becep.bismarckschools.org](http://www.becep.bismarckschools.org)

SB2250  
1-23-19  
Att #4  
CINDY WILCOX  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
p 1 of 1

**MICHELLE DZURA-HOUGEN**  
BECEP-COORDINATOR

**LAUREL PICKARD**  
HEAD START-COORDINATOR

January 21, 2019

Senator Donald Schaible, Chairman  
Senate Education Committee  
North Dakota State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Chairman Schaible;

I am the Coordinator of the Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program and a recipient of an Early Childhood Education Grant through the Dept. of Commerce for the last two years. Through this grant, we have served four year old children in our Early Childhood Special Education Program who qualified for free or reduced meals, but did not qualify for our Early Childhood Special Education Program or were unable to get into our Head Start Program. These are also children whose parents were unable to enroll them in a community preschool due to family financial constraints. The funding through this grant has also enabled us to place some children without developmental delays into our Early Childhood Special Education classrooms as "models" for children with Individualized Education Programs. We have used the funding from the Early Childhood Education Grant to hire additional aide support in an Early Childhood Special Education classroom serving children funded under the Grant.

I am in support of SB 2250 for four year old children who otherwise would not be able to benefit from attending preschool and working on critical skills in their year before kindergarten.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Hougen*

Michelle Hougen  
Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator



SB 2250  
1-23-19  
A# #5  
p1 of 2

January 22, 2019

Mickey Berry  
501 Main  
PO Box 69  
Emerado, ND 58228

Dear Chairman Schaible and Esteemed Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I would like to offer my support for Senate Bill 2250 that revises the state moneys appropriated for the ND Early Childhood Education Program, ND Century Code Chapter 15.1-37.

Senate Bill 2250 revises state moneys appropriated for each participating early childhood education program as follows:

- a. Three thousand dollars for each enrolled child, if the child is eligible for free lunches;
- b. Two thousand dollars for each enrolled child, if the child is eligible for reduced lunches; and
- c. One thousand dollars for every other enrolled child.

North Dakota's economic future depends on our children getting off to the right start. Senate Bill 2250 is asking for an investment in our state's future.

Pre-k services are an important asset to the Emerado community and Emerado Public Schools. Not only do pre-k services help the community's most vulnerable children become prepared for K-12 schooling, but it also eases the burden on elementary school teachers and staff. Pre-k services are an invaluable resource that enables children to enter kindergarten at developmentally appropriate levels. Kindergarten teachers can immediately get to work instructing all students and not spend valuable time catching at-risk students up to their peers. The time saved is redirected into building the foundation of learning that will propel these students through the K-12 education system.

Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Director of the Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University said, "The Foundation of a Successful Society Is Built in Early Childhood." His research found:

- Strong association between children's cognitive skills before they enter kindergarten with achievement in elementary and high school.
- High school completion can even be predicted based on general cognitive ability in the preschool years. *National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. 2000, Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.*

Without high-quality early childhood intervention, we know that an at-risk child is:

- 25% more likely to drop out of school
- 40% more likely to become a teen parent
- 50% more likely to be placed in special education
- 60% more likely never to attend college
- 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime

*Ounce of Prevention Fund (2012)*

SB 2250  
1-23-19  
Att. #5  
P2 of 2

The science on children's brain development is clear: the years from birth through age 5 are crucial. Studies in the past two decades have shown that the early years lay the foundation for children's success in life or create early roadblocks.

- The first five years of life are a time of tremendous growth. Children are growing physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually.
- Children's brains grow more rapidly in these early years than at any other time of life.
- Children are naturally eager to learn. Their environment has a major impact on their capacity to learn.
- A safe, caring and nurturing environment boosts a child's ability to learn. So do stimulating activities and interactions with parents and caregivers.

The reverse is also true. A child who experiences extreme poverty, neglect, abuse, family violence or substance abuse, or whose parents have severe depression, may be in a constant state of stress. This toxic stress disrupts the child's brain growth and can impact all areas of development.

Early childhood programs are the most cost-effective way to ensure the healthy development of children in poverty and offer the greatest returns to society.

- Early childhood programs for low-income children report returns between \$4 and \$9 for every dollar invested in these programs. *Harvard's Center on the Developing Child*
- Careful academic research demonstrates that tax dollars spent on early childhood programs provide extraordinary returns compared with investments in the public, and even private, sector. The potential return from a focused, high-quality ECD program is as high as 16 percent per year. *"Early Childhood Development on a Large Scale" June 2005 Rob Grunewald and Art Rolnick's proposal for investment in early childhood education*
- Quality economic returns come from quality investment in early childhood development. *The Heckman Equation Project, www.heckmanequation.org*
- As adults, children who were in high-quality early learning programs had higher earnings, paid more taxes, were healthier and were less likely to require welfare or criminal justice costs. *Barnett, 1996; Pew Center for the States, 2011; RAND Corporation; 2008, Reynolds, Temple, White, Ou & Robertson, 2011*

We have an incredible opportunity to invest in North Dakota's future. We all take very seriously our responsibilities as stewards of our state's resources while building the infrastructure critical to sustain our economic viability. We must not forget that a critical component of that infrastructure is the well-being of our youngest citizens.

I encourage you to vote "do pass" on Senate Bill 2250. Creating an education system for our youngest and most vulnerable children is imperative for their success – in school and life.

Mickey Berry  
701-594-5125

SB 2250  
1-23-19  
Att #6  
p1081



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7128  
Bismarck ND 58507-7128  
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127  
[www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org)

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2250**  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
January 23, 2019  
By Amy L. De Kok, Legal Counsel  
North Dakota School Boards Association

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy De Kok and I am in-house Legal Counsel for the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA). NDSBA represents all operating schools districts within the State of North Dakota. I appear before you today to testify in support of SB 2250.

Research proves that quality early childhood education can help improve children's school readiness, and close the achievement gaps that exist among children even before they enter school. Research also finds that children who participate in high-quality programs demonstrate greater interest in learning, are less likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to require special education classes, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. NDSBA and our members recognize the significant benefits of high quality early childhood education and we support a voluntary role for local school districts. However, it is important that these services be separately funded from K-12 education to avoid any reduction of aid or services to our K-12 students. SB 2250 does not appear to change existing law, which permits schools districts to voluntarily provide early childhood education only with state and federal funds specifically appropriated to such a program, with local tax revenues not necessary for the provision of K-12 education, and with gifts, grants or donations given specifically to support such a program. Finally, NDSBA supports moving the administration of the Early Childhood Education Program from the Department of Commerce to DPI as reflected in Section 2 of the bill.

NDSBA urges a do pass recommendation from the committee on SB 2250. Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to stand for any questions.

SENATE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
SB 2250  
SHEYENNE ROOM  
SENATOR DONALD SCHAIBLE, CHAIRMAN

SB 2250  
1-23-19  
Att #7  
p1 of 2

**KERRI KRAFT – PROGRAM SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Mister chairman and members of the committee, I am Kerri Kraft, program administrator for the Department of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) administers the Early Childhood Education Grant program. This program was originally established by the 2015 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, to assist North Dakota's communities with public, private, nonprofit or partnership entities offering early childhood care and education a chance to develop or enhance existing programs through community collaboration. The budget allocated up to \$3,000,000 for the 2015-17 biennium. During this time the first year was to be used as a planning year and no funds were disbursed. Year 2 of the biennium was the first year of funding for the program. During the 2017-19 biennium \$1,500,000 was allocated from the budget for funding to the program.

Commerce works collaboratively with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) regarding the implementation and approval of entities that apply. Commerce has administered grants totaling \$1,965,037, to 64 facilities. This funding impacted approximately over 1,000 4-year olds eligible for free or reduced lunch. The awarded programs receive \$1,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for reduced lunch and \$2,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for free lunch.

In the 2018-19 school year, \$917,000 has been obligated and can be awarded for the upcoming school year. (See breakdown attached). We anticipate impacting approximately 1,067 students with these grant awards.

In the 2017-19 legislative session, legislation passed that removed Head Start Programs from being eligible to participate in the Early Childhood Education Grant program. Because of this change two Head Start programs were no longer eligible to receive funds from this grant. Prior to the change, approximately \$77,315 was reimbursed to eligible Head Start programs. One facility has collaborated with a public school and has the ability, with the unique identification utilized with the State Automated Reporting System (a reporting system operated by NDDPI), to report only the students that are in the ECE program, and not in the Head Start program.

During a program year, the facility has the ability to request more funds through a budget modification request. During the 2016-17 school year, 11 facilities requested budget modifications because of under projected number of eligible 4-year olds enrolled in the program. During the 2017-18 school year, 12 facilities requested more funds for the under projected number of eligible 4-year olds in the program. (See breakdown attached). In the current school year, after only 2 quarters of reporting, to date 5 facilities will be requesting budget modifications.

The program also recognized the communities that are approved Community Eligible Provision (CEP) facilities. These are the facilities that are in a district that is in a low-income area. Of all the facilities that applied for funds, six facilities were approved CEP facilities.

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, this concludes my testimony. I will stand to answer any questions you may have for me.

SENATE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
SHEYENNE ROOM  
SENATOR DONALD SCHAIBLE, CHAIRMAN

SIB 2280  
L-23-19  
A#.#7  
P. 2 of 2

**Facilities Funded**

	16-17	Students Impacted (Funded/Reduced/Other)	17-18	Students Impacted (Funded/Reduced/Other)	18-19 (New Award)	Students Impacted (Funded/Reduced/Other)	Total funds plus new award	Years Funded	Community Eligible Provision
Alexander Public School	\$4,807.85	15	\$8,076.92	14	\$14,000.00	9	\$26,884.77	3	
Ashley Public Schools	\$2,000.00	12	\$7,750.00	14	\$5,000.00	6	\$14,750.00	3	
Bismarck Early Childhood Education Prep			\$17,000.00	10	\$18,000.00	24	\$35,000.00	2	
Barnes County North School	\$2,000.00	14			\$12,000.00	40	\$14,000.00	2	
Belcourt School District/Tiny Turtles Preschool Program	\$45,553.82	30	\$66,800.01	36	\$80,000.00	96	\$192,353.83	3	X
Caring-Ton Preschool	\$10,000.00	32	\$11,000.00	30	\$30,000.00	44	\$51,000.00	3	
Cavalier Public School District	\$14,000.00	26	\$12,396.15	29	\$12,000.00	29	\$38,396.15	3	
Center-Stanton Public School	\$5,500.00	15	\$1,500.00	10			\$7,000.00	2	
Drayton Public School #19	\$7,914.93	18					\$7,914.93	1	
Fordville-Lankin Public School	\$4,000.00	5					\$4,000.00	1	
Devils Lake Public School			\$13,000.00	16	\$17,000.00	20	\$30,000.00	2	
Dunseith Public School			\$25,500.00	35	\$30,000.00	15	\$55,500.00	2	X
Emerado Public School			\$33,015.39	20	\$40,000.00	20	\$73,015.39	2	X
Garrison Public School			\$7,799.99	36	\$17,000.00	40	\$24,799.99	2	
Glen Ullin Public School	\$2,000.00	10	\$8,000.00	7	\$10,000.00	8	\$20,000.00	3	
Glenburn Public School			\$1,500.00	4	\$13,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2	
Grafton School District #3	\$47,330.82	75	\$48,565.37	75	\$58,000.00	50	\$153,896.19	3	
Hazelton-Moffitt-Braddock Public School	\$6,000.00	4	\$6,500.00	6	\$6,000.00	6	\$18,500.00	3	
Hebron School PreKindergarten	\$8,676.92	15	\$6,000.00	15	\$7,000.00	5	\$21,676.92	3	
Kidder County School District	\$14,000.00	20	\$0.00	24			\$14,000.00	2	
Kulm Public School District	\$3,250.00	8	\$10,000.00	12	\$3,000.00	8	\$16,250.00	3	
Leeds Public Schools	\$6,000.00	10					\$6,000.00	1	
Larimore Public School			\$17,000.00	25	\$20,000.00	24	\$37,000.00	2	
Langdon Daycare Center			\$1,707.68	20			\$1,707.68	1	
Linton Public School	\$2,250.00	12	\$11,000.00	5	\$14,000.00	15	\$27,250.00	2	
Maddock Public School District	\$5,053.85	8	\$4,000.00	1	\$16,000.00	15	\$25,053.85	3	
Mayville SU Child Development - Mayville Site	\$7,384.60	32					\$7,384.60	1	
Mayville SU Child Development - Portland Site	\$1,623.12	10					\$1,623.12	1	
Mayville SU Child Development at Hillsboro Public School	\$16,707.69	32					\$16,707.69	1	
Mayville SU Child Development at Central Valley Public School	\$6,830.78	14					\$6,830.78	1	
Manvel Public School			\$9,665.39	16	\$5,000.00	21	\$14,665.39	2	
Max Public School			\$9,411.54	13	\$4,000.00	10	\$13,411.54	2	
Public School District #19	\$6,250.00	8	\$7,000.00	7			\$13,250.00	2	
Public School	\$8,000.00	6	\$5,742.27	8	\$6,000.00	9	\$19,742.27	3	
Public							\$8,000.00	1	
Minnewaukan Public School	\$24,500.00	16	\$25,269.22	15	\$30,000.00	15	\$79,769.22	3	X
Minot Public Schools Head Start	\$37,315.38	14					\$37,315.38	1	
Minto School District	\$16,242.42	20	\$7,000.00	17	\$10,000.00	18	\$33,242.42	3	
Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood					\$21,000.00	26	\$21,000.00	1	
Mt. Pleasant Public School			\$9,230.76	14	\$13,000.00	15	\$22,230.76	2	
New England Public School	\$17,500.00	25	\$7,576.92	22	\$16,000.00	22	\$41,076.92	3	
New Rockford-Sheyenne School District	\$12,203.85	20	\$4,796.15	25			\$17,000.00	2	
North Border School District #100	\$7,000.00	24	\$2,000.00	22	\$15,000.00	21	\$24,000.00	3	
North Star School District #10	\$9,000.00	20	\$26,484.38	25	\$27,000.00	30	\$62,484.38	3	
Northern Cass School District #97	\$4,250.00	15	\$3,000.00	19	\$4,000.00	15	\$11,250.00	3	
Park River Area School District #8	\$9,253.85	38	\$18,000.00	29	\$17,000.00	25	\$44,253.85	3	
Pingree-Buchanan Public School	\$3,750.00	15	\$3,500.00	16	\$13,000.00	13	\$20,250.00	3	
Rugby Early Learning Center	\$40,000.00	35					\$40,000.00	1	
Sargent Central Public School			\$0.00	16	\$11,000.00	12	\$11,000.00	2	
Sawyer Public School			\$2,500.00	8	\$12,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2	
Scranton Public School District #33	\$12,750.00	11	\$20,653.84	6	\$12,000.00	8	\$45,403.84	3	
Solen School District #3	\$4,469.10	16			\$24,000.00	12	\$28,469.10	2	X
St. Michael's Preschool and Childcare	\$14,000.00	32	\$8,000.00	35	\$15,000.00	11	\$37,000.00	3	
Strasburg Public School	\$5,000.00	9					\$5,000.00	1	
St. Alphonsus School			\$2,000.00	12	\$4,000.00	46	\$6,000.00	2	
The Gingerbreadhouse, Inc	\$7,330.77	16	\$5,653.84	17	\$12,000.00	12	\$24,984.61	3	
The Learning Circle - Hillsboro					\$16,000.00	21	\$16,000.00	1	
Underwood School District	\$8,750.00	22	\$3,000.00	15	\$10,000.00	18	\$21,750.00	3	
University Children's Learning Center	\$8,546.16	37	\$4,500.00	37	\$21,000.00	46	\$34,046.16	3	
Warwick Public School	\$34,222.02	18	\$19,223.05	18	\$36,000.00	18	\$89,445.07	3	X
Wilton Public School	\$3,000.00	18	\$9,500.00	15	\$18,000.00	18	\$30,500.00	3	
Wishek Public					\$15,000.00	20	\$15,000.00	1	
YMCA - Cass Clay					\$95,000.00	80	\$95,000.00	1	
Zeeland Public					\$5,000.00	4	\$5,000.00	1	
	\$516,217.93		\$531,818.87		\$917,000.00		\$1,965,036.80		
<b>44 Facilities</b>		<b>978</b>	<b>46 Facilities</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>48 Facilities</b>	<b>1067</b>	Funded 3 years	27	
							Funded 2 years	20	
							Funded 1 year	17	
								<b>64</b>	

get Modification

SB 2250  
1-30-19  
Att #1  
p. 1 of 1

19.0960.02001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Senator Oban  
January 29, 2019

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2250

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 22

Renumber accordingly

SB 2250  
2-4-19  
Att # 1  
p. 1 of 1

19.0960.02002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Senator Oban

January 30, 2019

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2250

Page 1, line 1, remove "15.1-09-58,"

Page 1, line 1, remove the second comma

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 22

Page 2, line 5, remove the overstrike over ", in the amount of two thousand dollars for each  
child enrolled"

Page 2, remove the overstrike over lines 6 through 9

Page 2, line 10, remove the overstrike over "B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C.  
1751, et seq.], provided"

Page 2, line 10, remove "if"

Renumber accordingly

2-11-19  
SB 2250  
#1  
P1

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2250  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**February 11, 2019**

**By: Tara Fuhrer, Director of Early Learning  
701-328-4646**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Fuhrer and I am the Director of the Office of Early Learning with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of, and to provide information regarding SB 2250, relating to funding for public schools offering early childhood education services to only four-year olds.

The 2015 legislature created the Early Childhood Education Grant Program that was administered through the Department of Commerce as a way to bring communities together to better serve four-year-old children enrolled in approved Pre-kindergarten classrooms. The Department of Commerce, with support from the Department of Public Instruction, released year one planning guidance and the grant application; in year two reviewed applications and awarded 44 programs; and during the current 2017-2019 biennium 46 and 49 entities were awarded respectfully.

Specifically, during our current 2018-2019 school year, the 49 entities the Department of Commerce awarded serves approximately 1,582 four-year-olds. 524 qualified for Free Lunch; 83 qualify for Reduced Lunch; and 975 are enrolled but do not qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

P1

I would like to briefly give you current examples of what the grant program looks like and how the funds are being spent. Emerado Public School District has 20 four-year-olds enrolled that qualify for Free Lunch and they are funded at \$40,000 this year. Pingree-Buchanan Public School District has 18 children enrolled, one that is eligible for Free Lunch and two that are eligible for Reduced Lunch and generates \$4,000 this year. Alexander Public School District has 14 four-year-olds enrolled two qualify for Free Lunch and two for Reduced lunch and generates \$6,000 this year. These, as well as the other awarded programs, use the funds to off-set the salary and benefits of a North Dakota Licensed Teacher qualified to teach pre-kindergarten by the Education Standards and Practices Board. Differently, however allowable, Bismarck Public School District has 104 four-year-olds enrolled and 10 children are eligible, five that qualify for Free Lunch, five that qualify for Reduced Lunch, and are funded at \$15,000. Bismarck is choosing to use the funds to open slots for 10 children who are on the Head Start waitlist that would not otherwise be served, therefore helping to meet a community need.

By expanding the amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for families who qualify for Free Lunch, \$1,000 to \$2,000 for families that qualify for Reduced Lunch and the addition of \$1,000 for four-year-old children not eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, will offer support to the 108 eligible School Districts that choose to be organized and Approved to offer Pre-kindergarten in their district.

SB 2230  
2-11-19  
#1  
PB

It is important to note the dollars currently appropriated will be sufficient to fund the current number of four-year-old children enrolled in the district's choosing to participate in the Early Childhood Grant Program.

Chairman and Members of the Committee, this concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

P 3

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
SB 2250  
HARVEST ROOM  
SENATOR RAY HOLMBERG, CHAIRMAN

sb 2250  
2-11-19  
# 2

KERRI KRAFT – PROGRAM SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

p1

Mister chairman and members of the committee, I am Kerri Kraft, program administrator for the Department of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) administers the Early Childhood Education Grant program. This program was originally established by the 2015 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, to assist North Dakota's communities with public, private, nonprofit or partnership entities offering early childhood care and education a chance to develop or enhance existing programs through community collaboration. The budget allocated up to \$3,000,000 for the 2015-17 biennium. During this time the first year was to be used as a planning year and no funds were disbursed. Year 2 of the biennium was the first year of funding for the program. During the 2017-19 biennium \$1,500,000 was allocated from the budget for funding to the program.

Commerce works collaboratively with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) regarding the implementation and approval of entities that apply. Commerce has administered grants totaling \$1,965,037, to 64 facilities. This funding impacted approximately over 1,000 4-year olds eligible for free or reduced lunch. The awarded programs receive \$1,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for reduced lunch and \$2,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for free lunch.

In the 2018-19 school year, \$917,000 has been obligated and can be awarded for the upcoming school year. (See breakdown attached). We anticipate impacting approximately 1,067 students with these grant awards.

In the 2017-19 legislative session, legislation passed that removed Head Start Programs from being eligible to participate in the Early Childhood Education Grant program. Because of this change two Head Start programs were no longer eligible to receive funds from this grant. Prior to the change, approximately \$77,315 was reimbursed to eligible Head Start programs. One facility has collaborated with a public school and has the ability, with the unique identification utilized with the State Automated Reporting System (a reporting system operated by NDDPI), to report only the students that are in the ECE program, and not in the Head Start program.

During a program year, the facility has the ability to request more funds through a budget modification request. During the 2016-17 school year, 11 facilities requested budget modifications because of under projected number of eligible 4-year olds enrolled in the program. During the 2017-18 school year, 12 facilities requested more funds for the under projected number of eligible 4-year olds in the program. (See breakdown attached). In the current school year, after only 2 quarters of reporting, to date 5 facilities will be requesting budget modifications.

The program also recognized the communities that are approved Community Eligible Provision (CEP) facilities. These are the facilities that are in a district that is in a low-income area. Of all the facilities that applied for funds, six facilities were approved CEP facilities.

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, this concludes my testimony. I will stand to answer any questions you may have for me.

2-11-19 9B2250

**Facilities Funded**

Facilities Funded	16-17	17-18		18-19 (New Award)		Total funds plus new award	Years Funded	Community Eligible Provision
		Students impacted (Free/Reduced/Other)	Amount	Students impacted (Free/Reduced/Other)	Amount			
Alexander Public School	\$4,807.85	15	\$8,076.92	14	\$14,000.00	9	\$26,884.77	3
Ashley Public Schools	\$2,000.00	12	\$7,750.00	14	\$5,000.00	6	\$14,750.00	3
Bismarck Early Childhood Education Prep			\$17,000.00	10	\$18,000.00	24	\$35,000.00	2
Barnes County North School	\$2,000.00	14			\$12,000.00	40	\$14,000.00	2
Belcourt School District/Tiny Turtles Preschool Program	\$45,553.82	30	\$66,800.01	36	\$80,000.00	96	\$192,353.83	3
Caring-Ton Preschool	\$10,000.00	32	\$11,000.00	30	\$30,000.00	44	\$51,000.00	3
Cavalier Public School District	\$14,000.00	26	\$12,396.15	29	\$12,000.00	29	\$38,396.15	3
Center-Stanton Public School	\$5,500.00	15	\$1,500.00	10			\$7,000.00	2
Drayton Public School #19	\$7,914.93	18					\$7,914.93	1
Fordville-Lankin Public School	\$4,000.00	5					\$4,000.00	1
Devils Lake Public School			\$13,000.00	16	\$17,000.00	20	\$30,000.00	2
Dunseith Public School			\$25,500.00	35	\$30,000.00	15	\$55,500.00	2
Emerado Public School			\$33,015.39	20	\$40,000.00	20	\$73,015.39	2
Garrison Public School			\$7,799.99	36	\$17,000.00	40	\$24,799.99	2
Glen Ullin Public School	\$2,000.00	10	\$8,000.00	7	\$10,000.00	8	\$20,000.00	3
Glenburn Public School			\$1,500.00	4	\$13,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2
Grafton School District #3	\$47,330.82	75	\$48,565.37	75	\$58,000.00	50	\$153,896.19	3
Hazelton-Moffitt-Braddock Public School	\$6,000.00	4	\$6,500.00	6	\$6,000.00	6	\$18,500.00	3
Hebron School PreKindergarten	\$8,676.92	15	\$6,000.00	15	\$7,000.00	5	\$21,676.92	3
Kidder County School District	\$14,000.00	20	\$0.00	24			\$14,000.00	2
Kulm Public School District	\$3,250.00	8	\$10,000.00	12	\$3,000.00	8	\$16,250.00	3
Leeds Public Schools	\$6,000.00	10					\$6,000.00	1
Larimore Public School			\$17,000.00	25	\$20,000.00	24	\$37,000.00	2
Langdon Daycare Center			\$1,707.68	20			\$1,707.68	1
Linton Public School	\$2,250.00	12	\$11,000.00	5	\$14,000.00	15	\$27,250.00	2
Maddock Public School District	\$5,053.85	8	\$4,000.00	1	\$16,000.00	15	\$25,053.85	3
Mayville SU Child Development - Mayville Site	\$7,384.60	32					\$7,384.60	1
Mayville SU Child Development - Portland Site	\$1,623.12	10					\$1,623.12	1
Mayville SU Child Development at Hillsboro Public School	\$16,707.69	32					\$16,707.69	1
Mayville SU Child Development at Central Valley Public School	\$6,830.78	14					\$6,830.78	1
Manvel Public School			\$9,665.39	16	\$5,000.00	21	\$14,665.39	2
Max Public School			\$9,411.54	13	\$4,000.00	10	\$13,411.54	2
Max Public School District #19	\$6,250.00	8	\$7,000.00	7			\$13,250.00	2
Max Public School	\$8,000.00	6	\$5,742.27	8	\$6,000.00	9	\$19,742.27	3
Max Public School					\$8,000.00	11	\$8,000.00	1
Minnewaukan Public School	\$24,500.00	16	\$25,269.22	15	\$30,000.00	15	\$79,769.22	3
Minot Public Schools Head Start	\$37,315.38	14					\$37,315.38	1
Minto School District	\$16,242.42	20	\$7,000.00	17	\$10,000.00	18	\$33,242.42	3
Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood					\$21,000.00	26	\$21,000.00	1
Mt. Pleasant Public School			\$9,230.76	14	\$13,000.00	15	\$22,230.76	2
New England Public School	\$17,500.00	25	\$7,576.92	22	\$16,000.00	22	\$41,076.92	3
New Rockford-Sheyenne School District	\$12,203.85	20	\$4,796.15	25			\$17,000.00	2
North Border School District #100	\$7,000.00	24	\$2,000.00	22	\$15,000.00	21	\$24,000.00	3
North Star School District #10	\$9,000.00	20	\$26,484.38	25	\$27,000.00	30	\$62,484.38	3
Northern Cass School District #97	\$4,250.00	15	\$3,000.00	19	\$4,000.00	15	\$11,250.00	3
Park River Area School District #8	\$9,253.85	38	\$18,000.00	29	\$17,000.00	25	\$44,253.85	3
Pingree-Buchanan Public School	\$3,750.00	15	\$3,500.00	16	\$13,000.00	13	\$20,250.00	3
Rugby Early Learning Center	\$40,000.00	35					\$40,000.00	1
Sargent Central Public School			\$0.00	16	\$11,000.00	12	\$11,000.00	2
Sawyer Public School			\$2,500.00	8	\$12,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2
Scranton Public School District #33	\$12,750.00	11	\$20,653.84	6	\$12,000.00	8	\$45,403.84	3
Solen School District #3	\$4,469.10	16			\$24,000.00	12	\$28,469.10	2
St. Michael's Preschool and Childcare	\$14,000.00	32	\$8,000.00	35	\$15,000.00	11	\$37,000.00	3
Strasburg Public School	\$5,000.00	9					\$5,000.00	1
St. Alphonsus School			\$2,000.00	12	\$4,000.00	46	\$6,000.00	2
The Gingerbreadhouse, Inc	\$7,330.77	16	\$5,653.84	17	\$12,000.00	12	\$24,984.61	3
The Learning Circle - Hillsboro					\$16,000.00	21	\$16,000.00	1
Underwood School District	\$8,750.00	22	\$3,000.00	15	\$10,000.00	18	\$21,750.00	3
University Children's Learning Center	\$8,546.16	37	\$4,500.00	37	\$21,000.00	46	\$34,046.16	3
Warwick Public School	\$34,222.02	18	\$19,223.05	18	\$36,000.00	18	\$89,445.07	3
Wilton Public School	\$3,000.00	18	\$9,500.00	15	\$18,000.00	18	\$30,500.00	3
Wishek Public					\$15,000.00	20	\$15,000.00	1
YMCA - Cass Clay					\$95,000.00	80	\$95,000.00	1
Zeeland Public					\$5,000.00	4	\$5,000.00	1

\$516,217.93	978	\$531,818.87	965	\$917,000.00	1067	\$1,965,036.80
<b>44 Facilities</b>		<b>46 Facilities</b>		<b>48 Facilities</b>		
Funded 3 years	27	Funded 2 years	20	Funded 1 year	17	64

#2  
P2

P2

Chairman Owens and Members of the House Education Committee,

Bills addressing preschool services have been presented to the North Dakota Legislature every session during the last decade. The research has been overwhelming in the benefits that come with preschool services and parents are actively seeking out preschool opportunities for their children. However, private preschool services are expensive, and schools often don't have the money nor space to provide services.

In 2016, the report from National Institute for Early Education Research found, 43 states, plus the District of Columbia and Guam, provide publicly funded preschool. This means that North Dakota is one of seven states that does not provide state funded preschool at this time. The others states are Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and New Hampshire. The 43 states with preschool services have enrolled about 1.5 million children across the country — mostly 3- and 4-year-olds. Total state spending on preschool is now about \$7.4 billion, an eight percent increase over 2015. That increase has pushed spending to nearly \$5,000 per child.

North Dakota does have a pilot preschool grant program which has been very successful. Specific enrollment for this current school year is 1,582 Children. SB2250 would continue this grant program but put the program under the Department of Public Instruction rather than the Department of Commerce. The original bill that was heard in the Senate provided districts that are participating with additional and much needed funding to support this program.

At this time, in North Dakota, a district receives \$500 every quarter or \$2,000 a year for a student who would qualify for a free lunch program and \$250 every quarter or \$1,000 a year for a student who would qualify for a reduced lunch program. They receive no funding for other children in the program. Currently 524 children enrolled are eligible for Free Lunch, 83 children eligible for Reduced Lunch, and 975 children enrolled that are not eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch. As you can see the largest percentage of children attending are the group that receives no funding. This has become a problem for the school districts who want to support their young students with preschool services.

The Department of Commerce received \$3 million for this pilot program. Below are the 2015-2017 biennium budget breakdown for this appropriation.

- Year one was for planning and year two was for funding eligible facilities.
- 2016-2017 school year; 44 facilities were funded for a total of \$516,218 - Averaging \$11,732 per facility
- 2017-2019 biennium Commerce received \$1.5 million (with carryover of unspent funds from the previous biennium)
- 2017-2018 school year; 46 facilities were funded for a total of \$531,819 - Averaging \$11,516 per facility
- 2018-2019 school year; 49 facilities are to be funded; currently in the process of requesting reimbursements for quarter 2. An estimated projection for the end of the school year is to fund a total of \$592,000 - Averaging \$12,081 per facility

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These amounts are averages and as you can figure out there are programs that are operating on a shoe string and at a loss. These funds do not even cover the cost of the preschool teacher let alone the supplies and cost of the facility.

It was my hope that SB2250 with the assistance of the House Education Committee, could be amended to put some increase in funding back in this bill to address the underfunding of these services. The Governor put 3 million in his budget to address the continuation of this program. I would hope that we could at the very least give \$125 a quarter or \$500 a year for students who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch. This additional funding comes to an increase of approximately \$500,000 for this preschool grant program. This would ensure that our youngest students get a good, solid start in preparing them for school.

That concludes my testimony at this time and I would stand for questions.

Current Funding			SB2250 Funding			Additional Funds	
Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	Other Students	Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	Other Students		
524 X 2,000 = 1,048,000	83 X 1,000 = 83,000	975 X 0 = 0	524 X 2,000 = 1,048,000	83 X 1,000 = 83,000	975 X 500 = 487,500		
	TOTAL	\$1,131,000			\$1,618,500		\$487,500

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**TESTIMONY ON SB 2250**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**February 27, 2019**  
**By: Tara Fuhrer, Director of Early Learning**  
**701-328-4646**  
**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Fuhrer and I am the Director of the Office of Early Learning with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to provide information regarding SB 2250, relating to funding for public schools offering early childhood education services to only four-year-olds.

The 2015 legislature created the Early Childhood Education Grant Program that was administered through the Department of Commerce as a way to bring multiple community partners and entities together to better serve parents of four-year-old children who wish to enroll their child in an approved Pre-kindergarten classroom. Applications were received, 44 community programs were approved during the 2015-2017 biennium; during the current 2017-2019 biennium 46 and 49 entities were awarded respectfully each year.

Specifically, during our current 2018-2019 school year, the 49 entities serve approximately 1,582 four-year-olds: 524 qualified for Free Lunch; 83 qualify for Reduced Lunch; and 975 are enrolled but do not qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

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I would like to briefly give you current examples of what the grant program looks like and how the funds are being spent. Emerado Public School District has 20 four-year-olds enrolled that qualify for Free Lunch and they are funded at \$40,000 this year. Pingree-Buchanan Public School District has 18 children enrolled, one that is eligible for Free Lunch and two that are eligible for Reduced Lunch and generates \$4,000 this year. Alexander Public School District has 14 four-year-olds enrolled with two qualifying for Free Lunch, two for Reduced lunch, and generates \$6,000 this year. These, as well as the other awarded programs, use the funds to off-set the salary and benefits of a North Dakota Licensed Teacher qualified to teach pre-kindergarten by the Education Standards and Practices Board. Differently, however allowable, Bismarck Public School District has 104 four-year-olds enrolled and 10 children are eligible, five that qualify for Free Lunch, five that qualify for Reduced Lunch, and are funded at \$15,000. Bismarck is choosing to use the funds to open slots for 10 children who are on the Head Start waitlist that would not otherwise be served, therefore helping to meet the parents' wishes for preschool opportunities for their children.

The dollars currently appropriated will be sufficient to fund the current number of four-year-old children whose parents would like them enrolled in a preschool program for four-year-olds.

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Chairman and Members of the Committee, this concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

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These are the school districts that applied for and were approved to receive the Commerce Grant for the 2nd biennium (2017-2019)

2017-2018 School Year (Year 1 of 2nd Biennium)
Alexander Public School
Ashley Public School
Bismarck Public School - BECEP
Belcourt Public School
Caring-Ton Preschool Childcare
Cavalier Public School
Center-Stanton Public School
Dunseith Public School
Devils Lake Public School
Emerado Public School
Garrison Public School
Glen Ullin Public School
Glenburn Public School
Grafton Public School
Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School
Hebron Public School
Kidder County Public School
Kulm Public School
Larimore Public School
Langdon Daycare Center
Linton Public School
Maddock Public School
Manvel Public School
Max Public School
McClusky Public School
Medina Public School
Minnewaukan Public School
Minto Public School
Mt. Pleasant Public School
New England Public School
New Rockford-Sheyenne Public School
North Border Public School
North Star Public School
Northern Cass Public School
Park River Area Public School
Pingree Buchanan Public School
Sargent Central Public School
Sawyer Public School
Scranton Public School
St. Michael's Preschool and Childcare
St. Alphonsus School
The Gingerbread House Childcare
Underwood Public School
University Children's Learning Center-Grand Forks
Warwick Public School
Wilton Public School

Total = 46

2018-2019 School Year (Year 2 of 2nd Biennium)
Alexander Public School
Ashley Public School
Barnes County Public School
Belcourt Public School
Bismarck Public School - BECEP
Caring-Ton Preschool Childcare
Cavalier Public School
Devils Lake Public School
Dunseith Public School
Emerado Public School
Garrison Public School
Glen Ullin Public School
Glenburn Public School
Grafton Public School
Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School
Kulm Public School
Larimore Public School
Linton Public School
Maddock Public School
Manvel Public School
Max Public School
Medina Public School
Midway Public School
Minnewaukan Public School
Minto Public School
Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood Public School
Mt. Pleasant Public School
New England Public School
North Border Public School
North Star Public School
Northern Cass Public School
Park River Area Public School
Pingree Buchanan Public School
Sargent Central Public School
Sawyer Public School
Scranton Public School
Solen Public School
St. Alphonsus Preschool
St. Michael's Preschool and Childcare
The Gingerbread House Childcare
The Learning Circle Childcare
Underwood Public School
University Children's Learning Center-Grand Forks
Warwick Public School
Wilton Public School
Wishek Public School
YMCA of Cass County Childcare
YMCA of Clay County Childcare
Zeeland Public School

Total = 49

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## HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING

#3

Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2250 to transfer funding and oversight for the ND Early Childhood Program from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning (OEL). My name is Allison Driessen. My agency partners with the Devils Lake Public Schools to operate the district's prekindergarten program.

Quality early learning benefits students, schools and communities. Legislators have heard countless reports of the importance of early childhood education services and the unique opportunity we have in "getting it right" in a child's brain development in the first five years of life. North Dakota began with an early childhood legislative study and created a Pre-Kindergarten program based on a partnership between the Department of Commerce and Department of Public Instruction focusing on workforce development and availability of early childhood education. At the time the legislation was created in 2015, the Office of Early Learning in the Department of Public Instruction did not exist. The Department of Commerce graciously took on the challenge and worked closely with the DPI to implement Pre-Kindergarten programming.

Department of Commerce has four divisions- Tourism, Economic Development, Workforce Development, and Community Services. Creating opportunities to start up early childhood education programs is an economic and workforce development and community services issue and was strategically placed within the Department of Commerce. The Pre-Kindergarten program is in its third year of operations and now is the time to transfer the administration and funding to the Department of Public Instruction to ensure academic excellence and align with the vision of the department. The North Dakota Legislature and the Governor are committed to lessening unnecessary red-tape in state government. The current process requires school districts and early childhood providers to submit applications and approval between the two departments for a minimal amount of money.

According to the PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework released by the Department of Public Instruction in July 2018, increasing students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn were one of the six overarching goals of the framework. The framework identified that outcomes would be improved through focused efforts with the following strategic themes- quality early childhood education, - support for safe and healthy behaviors, career exploration, quality education personnel, and quality instruction for personalized learning. Increasing funding to pre-kindergarten will extend opportunities to children to enter school ready to learn.

According to the ND Department of Public Instruction website, 89 school districts or partnerships are approved to operate an approved pre-kindergarten program. Programs must have a highly qualified teacher, school board approval, fire inspection, meet the minimum operations requirements of 400 hours over 32 weeks, assurance that the district will meet the ND Early Learning Standards, provide 10 hours parent involvement and require the program to participate in STARS.

Pre-kindergarten state funds have been available for three years, and the Devils Lake program has operated for two years. The classroom operates Monday-Thursday from 8:30-3:00 offering 24 hours of service per week. After two years many important lessons have been learned:

- Districts or partners offering the minimum requirement of 12 hours per week does not meet the needs of working parents. It causes difficulty for transportation, extra transitions for students and is not an option for most low income or working families. Additional funding could add hours of service for districts.
- Without additional funding support, it is difficult to hire qualified staff. We were unable to open the first year because we could not meet the qualifications based on salaries. The Devils Lake Pre-Kindergarten program could not exist solely on state reimbursement and parent tuition. Many school districts cannot afford to offer pre-kindergarten

- programs, and the funding is not enough for community partners to meet all the requirements.
- According to the Update to the Interim Education Policy Committee in November 2017, the Greenway Strategy Group stated that after interviewing school administrators their top concerns were behavioral health issues, achievement among students from low income families and achievement among students with disabilities. Pre-kindergarten programs provide early intervention to all three concerns.

I recommend the House Education Committee support Senate Bill 2250 moving the administration and funding of the ND Early Childhood Program from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning. I also urge the committee to reinstate the annual funding increase for free and reduced children that was removed by the Senate for pre-kindergarten programs.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the committee and look forward to working closely with the Department of Public Instruction, local school districts and the child care community to ensure all children, regardless of income, have access to high quality early learning experiences that will build school readiness and future academic success.

Allison Driessen

Early Explorers Head Start & Early Head Start

1401 College Drive North

Devils Lake, ND 58301

[allison.driessen@k12.nd.us](mailto:allison.driessen@k12.nd.us)

701-665-4431

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## Testimony in Opposition to SB2250--House Education Committee--February 27, 2019

Good afternoon Chairman Owens, Vice-Chairman Schreiber-Beck and members of the House Education Committee. I am Rebecca Forness from Wahpeton, North Dakota. As a North Dakota citizen "of, by and for the people" I am grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you today and I urge each of you to give SB2250 a "Do Not Pass" recommendation.

I stand before you today as a daughter, mother and grandmother to defend our way of life. The passage of SB2250 threatens that way of life.

SB2250 in it's original form, relating to requiring public schools to provide early childhood education services sought 3 outcomes.

1. Requiring public schools to provide early education services
2. Expanding and increasing dollars spent per student
3. Transferring administration of early education programs from Department of Commerce to Department of Public Instruction

Changes were made on the senate side and all that remains in the bill before you today is moving the administration of Early Education programs from currently in the Dept. of Commerce over to the Dept. of Public Instruction.

Traditionally our young children have not been a part of the public school system nor have they been under supervision of the Dept. of Public Instruction, and I urge you to keep it that way. My concern stems from [https://www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/media/documents/nd\\_early\\_care\\_education\\_study\\_report.pdf](https://www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/media/documents/nd_early_care_education_study_report.pdf)

the Dept. of Public Instruction's **North Dakota Early Care and Early Education Study 2014**

that states in the second recommendations section on page 56,

"Short-term: Develop a state early care and education action plan." then from the following paragraph, "action plan should include goals for children ages 0-5 and their families" Ages 0-5!! And their families!? I find that goal, no matter how well-intentioned, shocking and an overreach by DPI into the lives of North Dakota families.

For generations North Dakota families have accepted the responsibility and embraced the challenge of making very personal decisions regarding the early care(daycare) and early education options for their preschool children. Each family chooses what they deem best for the specific needs of their family members.

North Dakota families deserve to have choices for their children in these very crucial matters and with this proposed overreach of DPI these choices will likely be curtailed and eventually eliminated.

Again referring to the aforementioned DPI study, page 59, Conclusion, "North Dakota should begin to develop an early care and education funding plan."

Free and/or reduced, taxpayer-funded, one size fits all early care and early education will become the new normal. Home daycares, private and religious care centers, and locally controlled neighborhood co-ops will find it impossible to compete with free and/or reduced lunch, transportation, and perhaps even breakfast and after school care.

SB2250 provides grants of \$1000.00 and \$2000.00 per eligible preschool age student and it will become nearly impossible for other child care entities to compete with those "free" dollars.

If this bill passes, it is one step towards our state government having a monopoly on preschool child care services. Please leave the early care and early education decisions for North Dakota preschoolers in the able hands of their parents. I urge a Do Not Pass out of committee on SB2250.

Thank you for your time, attention and service to our Great State.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Forness

Wahpeton, NorthDakota

HOUSE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
SB 2250  
COTEAU A ROOM  
REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS, CHAIRMAN

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**KERRI KRAFT – PROGRAM SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Mister chairman and members of the committee, I am Kerri Kraft, a program administrator for the Department of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) administers the Early Childhood Education Grant program. This program was originally established by the 2015 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, to assist North Dakota's communities with public, private, nonprofit or partnership entities offering early childhood care and education a chance to develop or enhance existing programs through community collaboration. The budget allocated up to \$3,000,000 for the 2015-17 biennium. During this time the first year was to be used as a planning year and no funds were disbursed. Year 2 of the biennium was the first year of funding for the program. During the 2017-19 biennium \$1,500,000 was allocated from the budget for funding to the program.

Commerce works collaboratively with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) regarding the implementation and approval of entities that apply. Commerce has administered grants totaling \$1,965,037, to 64 facilities. This funding impacted approximately over 3,000 4-year olds eligible for free or reduced lunch. The awarded programs receive \$1,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for reduced lunch and \$2,000 per 4-year old who qualifies for free lunch.

In the 2018-19 school year, \$917,000 has been obligated and can be awarded for the upcoming school year. (See breakdown attached). We anticipate impacting approximately 1,067 students with these grant awards, for just this school year.

In the 2017-19 legislative session, legislation passed that removed Head Start Programs from being eligible to participate in the Early Childhood Education Grant program. Because of this change two Head Start programs were no longer eligible to receive funds from this grant. Prior to the change, approximately \$77,315 was reimbursed to eligible Head Start programs. One facility has collaborated with a public school and has the ability, with the unique identification utilized with the State Automated Reporting System (a reporting system operated by NDDPI), to report only the students that are in the ECE program, and not in the Head Start program.

During a program year, the facility has the ability to request more funds through a budget modification request. During the 2016-17 school year, 11 facilities requested budget modifications because of under projected number of eligible 4-year olds enrolled in the program. During the 2017-18 school year, 12 facilities requested more funds for the under projected number of eligible 4-year olds in the program. (See breakdown attached). In the current school year, after only 2 quarters of reporting, to date 6 facilities will be requesting budget modifications.

The program also recognized the communities that are approved Community Eligible Provision (CEP) facilities. These are the facilities that are in a district that is in a low-income area. Of all the facilities that applied for funds, six facilities were approved CEP facilities.

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, this concludes my testimony. I will stand to answer any questions you may have for me.

SENATE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
SHEYENNE ROOM  
SENATOR DONALD SCHAIBLE, CHAIRMAN

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**Facilities Funded**

	16-17	Students Impacted (Free/Reduced/Other)	17-18	Students Impacted (Free/Reduced/Other)	18-19 (New Award)	Students Impacted (Free/Reduced/Other)	Totals funds plus new award	Years Funded	Community Eligible Provision
Alexander Public School	\$4,807.85	13	\$8,076.92	14	\$14,000.00	9	\$26,884.77	3	
Ashley Public Schools	\$2,000.00	12	\$7,750.00	14	\$5,000.00	6	\$14,750.00	3	
Bismarck Early Childhood Education Prep			\$17,000.00	104	\$18,000.00	24	\$35,000.00	2	
Barnes County North School	\$2,000.00	14			\$12,000.00	40	\$14,000.00	2	
Belcourt School District/Tiny Turtles Preschool Program	\$45,553.82	30	\$66,800.01	36	\$80,000.00	96	\$192,353.83	3	X
Caring-Ton Preschool	\$10,000.00	32	\$11,000.00	30	\$30,000.00	44	\$51,000.00	3	
Cavalier Public School District	\$14,000.00	26	\$12,396.15	29	\$12,000.00	29	\$38,396.15	3	
Center-Stanton Public School	\$5,500.00	15	\$1,500.00	10			\$7,000.00	2	
Drayton Public School #19	\$7,914.93	18					\$7,914.93	1	
Fordville-Lankin Public School	\$4,000.00	5					\$4,000.00	1	
Devils Lake Public School			\$13,000.00	16	\$17,000.00	20	\$30,000.00	2	
Dunseith Public School			\$25,500.00	35	\$30,000.00	15	\$55,500.00	2	X
Emerado Public School			\$33,015.39	20	\$40,000.00	20	\$73,015.39	2	X
Garrison Public School			\$7,799.99	36	\$17,000.00	40	\$24,799.99	2	
Glen Ullin Public School	\$2,000.00	10	\$8,000.00	7	\$10,000.00	8	\$20,000.00	3	
Glenburn Public School			\$1,500.00	4	\$13,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2	
Grafton School District #3	\$47,330.82	75	\$48,565.37	75	\$58,000.00	50	\$153,896.19	3	
Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School	\$6,000.00	4		6	\$6,000.00	6	\$18,000.00	3	
Hebron School PreKindergarten	\$8,676.92	15	\$6,000.00	15	\$7,000.00	5	\$21,676.92	3	
Kidder County School District	\$14,000.00	20	\$0.00	24			\$14,000.00	2	
Kulm Public School District	\$3,250.00	8	\$10,000.00	12	\$3,000.00	8	\$16,250.00	3	
Leeds Public Schools	\$6,000.00	10					\$6,000.00	1	
Larimore Public School			\$17,000.00	25	\$20,000.00	24	\$37,000.00	2	
Langdon Daycare Center			\$1,707.68	20			\$1,707.68	1	
Linton Public School	\$2,250.00	12	\$11,000.00	5	\$14,000.00	15	\$27,250.00	2	
Maddock Public School District	\$5,053.85	8	\$4,000.00	1	\$16,000.00	15	\$25,053.85	3	
Mayville SU Child Development - Mayville Site	\$7,384.60	32					\$7,384.60	1	
Mayville SU Child Development - Portland Site	\$1,623.12	10					\$1,623.12	1	
Mayville SU Child Development at Hillsboro Public School	\$16,707.69	32					\$16,707.69	1	
Mayville SU Child Development at Central Valley Public School	\$6,830.78	14					\$6,830.78	1	
Manvel Public School			\$9,665.39	16	\$5,000.00	21	\$14,665.39	2	
Manvel Public School			\$9,411.54	13	\$4,000.00	10	\$13,411.54	2	
Manvel School District #19	\$6,250.00	8	\$7,000.00	7			\$13,250.00	2	
Manvel Public School	\$8,000.00	6	\$5,742.27	8	\$6,000.00	9	\$19,742.27	3	
Miner Public					\$8,000.00	11	\$8,000.00	1	
Minnewaukan Public School	\$24,500.00	16	\$25,269.22	15	\$30,000.00	15	\$79,769.22	3	X
Minot Public Schools Head Start	\$37,315.38	140					\$37,315.38	1	
Minto School District	\$16,242.42	20	\$7,000.00	17	\$10,000.00	18	\$33,242.42	3	
Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood					\$21,000.00	26	\$21,000.00	1	
Mt. Pleasant Public School			\$9,230.76	14	\$13,000.00	15	\$22,230.76	2	
New England Public School	\$17,500.00	25	\$7,576.92	22	\$16,000.00	22	\$41,076.92	3	
New Rockford-Sheyenne School District	\$12,203.85	20	\$4,796.15	25			\$17,000.00	2	
North Border School District #100	\$7,000.00	24	\$2,000.00	22	\$15,000.00	21	\$24,000.00	3	
North Star School District #10	\$9,000.00	20	\$26,484.38	25	\$27,000.00	30	\$62,484.38	3	
Northern Cass School District #97	\$4,250.00	15	\$3,000.00	19	\$4,000.00	15	\$11,250.00	3	
Park River Area School District #8	\$9,253.85	38	\$18,000.00	29	\$17,000.00	25	\$44,253.85	3	
Pingree-Buchanan Public School	\$3,750.00	15	\$3,500.00	16	\$13,000.00	13	\$20,250.00	3	
Rugby Early Learning Center	\$40,000.00	35					\$40,000.00	1	
Sargent Central Public School			\$0.00	16	\$11,000.00	12	\$11,000.00	2	
Sawyer Public School			\$2,500.00	8	\$12,000.00	8	\$14,500.00	2	
Scranton Public School District #33	\$12,750.00	11	\$20,653.84	6	\$12,000.00	8	\$45,403.84	3	
Solen School District #3	\$4,469.10	16			\$24,000.00	12	\$28,469.10	2	X
St. Michael's Preschool and Childcare	\$14,000.00	32	\$8,000.00	35	\$15,000.00	11	\$37,000.00	3	
Strasburg Public School	\$5,000.00	9					\$5,000.00	1	
St. Alphonsus School			\$2,000.00	12	\$4,000.00	46	\$6,000.00	2	
The Gingerbreadhouse, Inc	\$7,330.77	16	\$5,653.84	17	\$12,000.00	12	\$24,984.61	3	
The Learning Circle - Hillsboro					\$16,000.00	21	\$16,000.00	1	
Underwood School District	\$8,750.00	22	\$3,000.00	15	\$10,000.00	18	\$21,750.00	3	
University Children's Learning Center	\$8,546.16	37	\$4,500.00	37	\$21,000.00	46	\$34,046.16	3	
Warwick Public School	\$34,222.02	18	\$19,223.05	18	\$36,000.00	18	\$89,445.07	3	X
Wilton Public School	\$3,000.00	18	\$9,500.00	15	\$18,000.00	18	\$30,500.00	3	
Wishek Public					\$15,000.00	20	\$15,000.00	1	
YMCA - Cass Clay					\$95,000.00	80	\$95,000.00	1	
Zenith Public					\$5,000.00	4	\$5,000.00	1	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$516,217.93</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>\$531,818.87</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>\$917,000.00</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>\$1,965,036.80</b>		

\*All Budget Modification

Funded 3 years	27
Funded 2 years	20
Funded 1 year	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

SB 2250  
2-27-19  
#6

I urge you to support SB 2250 to move the ND ECE Grant Program from Commerce to DPI. The Office of Early Learning employees capable people with extensive child care, preschool, and business experience, who can effectively support the program.

As a mom, university ECE instructor, and member of the ND Early Learning Standards Birth to Kindergarten writing team, I can speak confidently that our goal was NOT to make preschool more academic; the goal is to make the time before school (pre-school) more developmentally appropriate, play-based, and focused on social interactions and natural learning. If young children are learning those skills at home that's amazing, if it's happening in play groups that is great, if it's happening in daycare, terrific. However, for many children it's not happening in those settings, and they aren't ready to learn (i.e. sit and listen to a story, focus on the teacher, share, keep their hands to themselves, ask questions, zip their jackets, line up, etc.) when they get to kindergarten. A preschool teacher or caregiver can help them with these skills while also introducing them to sounds and shapes and colors and counting through play. This is what appropriate preschool/ early care / daycare/ looks like.

Streamlining these funds will help more children feel confident and ready to tackle the ABC's and 123s of kindergarten.

Janet Bassingthwaite

SB 2250  
2-27-19  
#7

CONCERNED  
**WOMEN** *for* **AMERICA**  
OF NORTH DAKOTA

**February 27, 2019**  
**House Human Education Committee**  
**Testimony in Opposition to SB 2250**

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Linda Thorson. I am a former educator of 26 years and the State Director for concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. I am here today on behalf of our North Dakota state members in opposition to SB 2250.

As our state's largest public policy women's organization, CWA of North Dakota has seven core issues, education being one of them.

We are in opposition to SB 2250, a bill which would have required public schools to provide early childhood education services. As amended, SB 2250 changes the administration of the distribution of free and reduced lunch grant funds, in the amount of two thousand dollars for children enrolled in a program of early childhood education, from the Department Superintendent of Commerce to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Changes to the transfer of the administration of grants for early childhood education services to the Department of Public Instruction should not be done before public disclosure and debate by state legislators of the stated goals of DPI for a state-wide early childhood care and education system, published in the North Dakota Early Care and Early Education Study, 2014<sup>1</sup>.

Findings from the study:

- North Dakota does not have a state plan to develop a comprehensive early childhood care and education system.
- It is recommended that the state develop, and then implement, an early childhood data collection system in partnership with the Early Childhood Data Management Council. At a minimum, the plan should begin by providing guidelines for public school districts to enroll all four and five-year-old students in the State Automated Reporting System (STARS).
- Also recommended, develop a state early care and education action plan. The action plan should include goals for children ages 0 to 5 and their families that can be operational and measurable to inform state policy and funding decisions.

CWA of North Dakota is opposed to early childhood education programs administered by the Department of Public Instruction for many reasons; one is their published goals to develop a state early care and education action plan with goals for *children ages 0 to 5 and their families*.

Parents have authority over their children, are the child's first teacher and are given responsibility for teaching their children right from wrong. The Department of Public Instruction should not have a role in the education parents provide to their preschool aged child(ren). It is a mistake to give DPI a foot in the door and a way to begin reaching their stated goals for all 0 to 5-year old children and their families.

**We, again, urge your "Do Not Pass" vote on SB 2250.** Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/media/documents/nd\\_early\\_care\\_education\\_study\\_report.pdf](https://www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/media/documents/nd_early_care_education_study_report.pdf), p 56-57