

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1312

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1312
2/6/2023

relating to continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools

3:12 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Mental health program
- Kognito
- Faculty and staff members
- Contracted with Pria
- ND National Guard participants

Rep Schreiber-Beck, District 25, introduced HB 1312, Testimony 19290
Pam Sagness, Executive Director, Behavior Health, Dept of Health and Human Services,
Testimony 19362
Jacob Thomsen, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, Testimony 19289

3:27 PM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1312
2/7/2023

relating to continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools

3:17 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Schreiber Beck moved a Do Pass, seconded by Rep Murphy.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

12-2-0 Motion carried. Rep Schreiber Beck is carrier.

3:20 PM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1312: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1312 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1312

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1312
3/8/2023

Relating to continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools.
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2:22 PM PM Chair Elkin opened the hearing. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Behavioral health
- Date changes

Rep Schreiber-Beck, Dist 25, bill sponsor testified in support #22046

Additional written testimony:

Jacob Thomsen, ND Family Alliance, in support #22895.

2:26 PM Chair Elkin closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1312
3/14/2023

Relating to continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools.
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4:07 PM Chair Elkin opened committee work. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Expiration date
- Mental health resources
- Behavioral health resources
- Training program

Pam Sagness, Dept Health, Behavioral Health, testified. #25010, #25298.

4:27 PM Chair Elkin adjourned meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1312
3/15/2023

Relating to continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools.
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11:18 AM Chair Elkin opened committee work. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Wobbema moved a DO PASS.

Sen Conley seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Chair Elkin will carry the bill.

11:19 AM Chair Elkin adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1312: Education Committee (Sen. Elkin, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1312 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1312



Testimony Supporting House Bill 1312

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 6, 2023

Good afternoon Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am representing North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1312 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS."

Mental health problems and suicide are quite possibly the two biggest issues that young people across the United States face today. They cause devastation to families and cause feelings that no family should have to experience. No one should feel that they have to walk alone in these situations. Schools are the places where children and young people spend a large majority of their time. Because of these reasons, it is imperative that schools are equipped with the proper resources to handle mental health problems and suicide.

In the age of social media, these situations are ever-evolving. This is why a continuation of training and resources to handle these situations is so important. Schools need to be fully equipped to handle the situations that occur in students and among them. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests a "DO PASS."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

HB1312 – Introduction and Support

Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee on Education:

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative.

The amendment to House Bill 1312 changes 2 dates in section 50-06-05.1, under powers and duties of the department. (Title 50 is Public Welfare; Chapter 50-06 is Department of Health and Human Services)

On page 1, lines 7 and 8: the year that this section is effective through was changed from 2025 to 2027.

The extension of the date to 2027 allows for legislation from the 67th legislative session to be “effective through” 2027.

This change allows the Department of Health and Human Service to continue to provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. (See 28 - line 6 through 14 on page 6)

The extension of the date is because the department has funds through 2027 to provide the resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. (See fiscal note)

On page 6, line 24: the year that sections of 50-06-05.1, powers and duties of the department, are “effective after” was changed from 2025 to 2027

The behavioral health resource coordinator is addressed in lines 14 through 17 (28) on page 11.

Although HB1312 is 11 pages in length, the focus of the amendment was a continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for schools. This virtual program, called Kognito, is free to public and nonpublic schools in North Dakota. This program involves practice-based digital learning to improve mental health and well-being in schools. The role-play simulations enable educators to lead real-life conversations.

I am personally thankful that funds will continue to be available through 2027. With the recent suicide of an 11-year old Fargo student it is evident that programs to address mental health awareness and suicide prevention are needed and extremely important.

Thank you for your attention and I respectfully request support of House Bill 1312.



Testimony
House Bill No. 1312
House Education Committee
Representative Heinert, Chairman
February 6, 2023

Chairman Heinert, and members of the House Education Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill 1312.

The proposed change in this bill is to extend the current expiration date of section 50-06-05.1, from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Last session language was added to subsection 28 on page 6 regarding the powers and duties of the Department of Health and Human Services directing the Department:

To provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. The resources must include information on identifying warning signs, risk factors, and the availability of resources in the community, and also must include an evidence-based, online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program that incorporates hands-on practice, contextual learning, and personalized feedback through interactive role-playing. The provisions of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program under this subsection.

Kognito is an online, role-playing simulation for educators that builds awareness, knowledge, and skills about mental health and suicide prevention, and prepares users to lead real-life conversations with students to build resilience, strengthen relationships, and connect them with support.

The Department of Health & Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is offering these simulations to all North Dakota school personnel at no cost through the 2023-2024 school year.

Virtual Behavioral Health Professional Development – Education System (Kognito)



Kognito is for all school personnel in K-12 public, private, tribal schools, and special education units in ND including, but not limited to teachers, support staff, custodians, paraprofessionals, district leaders, administrators, etc. Kognito is also available to student teachers attending ND accredited teacher preparation programs.

Modules are available at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Users can complete the 45–60 minute interactive, evidence-based modules at their own pace and receive feedback in real time.

Module Objectives

- + Increase knowledge and awareness about child/adolescent/teen mental health and suicide
- + Identify warning signs of psychological distress
- + Increase knowledge and awareness about bullying and cyberbullying
- + Build skills in leading conversations with students in distress, discuss concerns, build resilience, and increase connectedness
- + Assess the need for referral, motivate a student to seek help, and make a warm hand-off to support
- + Understand school's specific support services and availability

HB1312 – Introduction and Support

Chair Elkin, Vice-Chair Beard, and Members of the Committee on Education:

For the record, I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative.

The amendment to House Bill 1312 changes two dates in section 50-06-05.1, under powers and duties of the department. (Title 50 is Public Welfare; Chapter 50-06 is Department of Health and Human Services).

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The extension of the date to 2027 allows for legislation from the 67th legislative session to be “effective through” 2027.

This date change allows the Department of Health and Human Service to continue to provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. (See 28 - line 6 through 14 on page 6)

The extension of the date is because the department has funds through 2027 to provide the resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention free of charge. (See fiscal note)

On page 6, line 24: the year that sections of 50-06-05.1, powers and duties of the department, are “effective after” was changed from 2025 to 2027

The behavioral health resource coordinator is addressed in lines 14 through 17 (28) on page 11.

Although HB1312 is 11 pages in length, the focus of the amendment is a continuation of an evidence-based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program for staff in North Dakota schools. This virtual program, called Kognito (<https://kognito.com/>), is free to public and nonpublic schools in North Dakota. This program involves practice-based digital learning to improve mental health and well-being in schools. The role-play simulations enable educators to lead real-life conversations.

I am personally thankful that funds will be available through 2027. It is evidenced by data that programs to address mental health awareness and suicide prevention are needed and extremely important.

Thank you for your attention and I respectfully request the committee’s support of House Bill 1312.

March 8, 2023, 2PM



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1312

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
March 8, 2023

Chairman Elkin and honorable members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am representing North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1312 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS."

Mental health problems and suicide are quite possibly the two biggest issues that young people across the United States face today. They cause devastation to families and cause feelings that no family should have to experience. No one should feel that they have to walk alone in these situations. Schools are the places where children and young people spend a large majority of their time. Because of these reasons, it is imperative that schools are equipped with the proper resources to handle mental health problems and suicide.

In the age of social media, these situations are ever-evolving. This is why a continuation of training and resources to handle these situations is so important. Schools need to be fully equipped to handle the situations that occur in students and among them. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests a "DO PASS."

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.



Testimony
House Bill No. 1312
Senate Education Committee
Senator Elkin, Chairman
March 8, 2023

Chairman Elkin, and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill 1312.

The proposed change in this bill is to extend the current expiration date of section 50-06-05.1, from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Last session language was added to subsection 28 on page 6 regarding the powers and duties of the Department of Health and Human Services directing the Department:

To provide resources on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to the behavioral health resource coordinator at each public school and to the designated individual at a nonpublic school. The resources must include information on identifying warning signs, risk factors, and the availability of resources in the community, and also must include an evidence-based, online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program that incorporates hands-on practice, contextual learning, and personalized feedback through interactive role-playing. The provisions of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply to the online virtual mental health and suicide prevention simulation-based training program under this subsection.

The Department has implemented the online virtual mental health and suicide prevention program. The program is available at no cost to anyone working in a K12 school in North Dakota. To date there have been more than 1113 individual activations for the program. I also provided a handout with additional information including a map of counties and survey results from participants. We are requesting an additional two years to continue implementation of the program as we have been able to secure funding to continue this important work into the 25-27 biennium.

Subsection 28 on page 11 shows the language that will remain after the June 30, 2027 date.

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

NORTH DAKOTA PROGRESS REPORT

Ratings

OCT

98%

rated it as Excellent, Very Good, or Good

99% At-Risk Elementary
97% At-Risk Middle
98% At-Risk High

96%

said it was based on scenarios relevant to their experience

98% At-Risk Elementary
96% At-Risk Middle
95% At-Risk High

93%

would recommend it to others

95% At-Risk Elementary
93% At-Risk Middle
90% At-Risk High

Quotes

Q. What did you like best about the training?

A. "I liked that I was leading the conversation, so that it felt like I was practicing hands on for a situation that could realistically happen in my classroom or with a parent."

A. "The interactive simulation that you had to choose the best response and if it wasn't correct you were alerted on what you should have done or why it was incorrect."

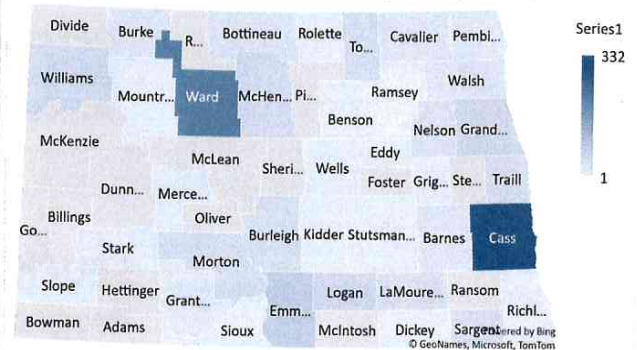
A. "I liked the scenarios where I had to think about how I should respond in a situation."

Usage & Staff Activity

1113

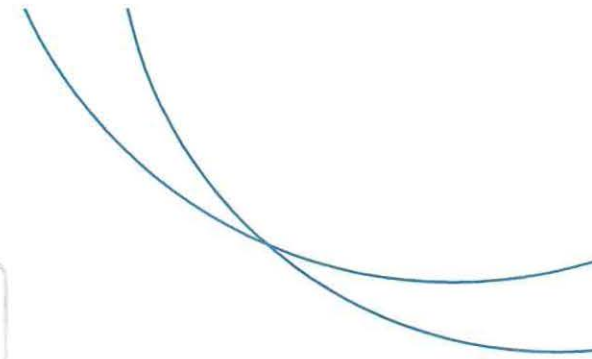
Total Activations to Date

Total Completions & In Progress by County



Top 5 Districts (Completions & In Progress)

- 1.FARGO 1 18.96%
- 2.WEST FARGO 6 9.97%
- 3.NEDROSE 4 4.22%
- 4.UNITED 7 3.86%
- 5.LEWIS AND CLARK 161 3.50%



Total Number of Completions

737

At-Risk for Elementary School Educators ... 396
At-Risk for Middle School Educators 136
At-Risk for High School Educators 205

Total Number in Progress

376

At-Risk for Elementary School Educators ... 201
At-Risk for Middle School Educators 59
At-Risk for High School Educators 116

SEU(16)/REA(14) in Progress/Completed

30

At-Risk for Elementary School Educators ... 12/6
At-Risk for Middle School Educators 2/3
At-Risk for High School Educators 2/5

\$300,000 total - already part of budget