

1999 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2235

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2235

Senate Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 27, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		2400-4668
2/1 2		x	692-1471
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Jinda Christman</i>			

Minutes:

Hearing on SB2235 called to order by SENATOR FREBORG . All present.

Testimony by SENATOR FREBORG, no written testimony.

I thought this was a simple bill when I put my name on it, it is not. Bill deals with health insurance for school district employees, introduced it for someone and they are here to testify.

We both agreed that it needs some amendments. I think the amendments are simple enough and if we take care of that it is a good bill. I don't support the bill without the amendments.

Testimony In Favor:

REPRESENTATIVE AARSVOLD, No written testimony

Larry Klundt, ND Council of Educational Leaders, No written testimony

Larry: The intent of the bill was to allow schooled districts the opportunity to bid their health insurance for periods of up to six years. I think this could be accomplished by an amendment that I would like to work with you on and how it may be done. Should the amendment be in this section of the law.

SENATOR FREBORG : We have to remove this language from the exemption list. Can't be there cause we're not going to exempt them from bidding if you agree to the amendment.

Larry: Yes, that is what we want. We want to not be exempted from bidding we want to bid the health insurance but we want that bidding period to be up to six years. That was the way we wanted it written. Reason we wanted that was to allow more companies that provide health insurance to participate through the bidding process.

SENATOR KELSH : What is your duration now?

Larry: One year, no bids were received this past year, problem is that companies that compete with Blue Cross didn't want to make any bids that were only for one year simply to be undercut a year later and lose the business. Wasn't worth their efforts to do that.

SENATOR COOK : One year restriction, would that apply to other things like for example telephone service.

Larry: Not a bidding process, but a monthly billing.

SENATOR FREBORG : Thank you Larry.

Testimony by Bev Nielson, ND School Board Association. No written, no objections.

Testimony by John Jonkowski, Larimore. Written testimony attached.

Testimony in Favor, Joe Wesby, Ex. Dir. of NDEA (Support the bill)

Testimony in Opposition: Cindy Lawson, ND Newspaper Association. As the bill is written right now we were in opposition to the elimination of the bidding process. With the amendments and changes we would not be in opposition,.

SENATOR FREBORG : Tom Decker would you come to the podium. Where in the code does it restrict the bidding to one year. Are all contracts one year.

Tom: Can't give you the exact reading. I could find out for you. We do support the concept of six year bidding.

Close hearing on SB2235.

Discussion.

SENATOR FREBORG : Are we in unison with what we want to do. Do we agree that we should try to fix it so it is bid of six years.

SENATOR WANZEK : I gather we all understand and we see why it shouldn't be where its at but I'm not sure about how to go about amending it cause I don't know where it should go.

SENATOR FREBORG : We will need to go to Council. Might be difficult but we will get it done.

February 1, 1999

SENATOR O'CONNELL: Move to adopt amendment 90436.0101.

SENATOR COOK: 2nd.

Vote: 6 Yes 0 No

SENATOR O'CONNELL: Move for a Do Pass as amended on SB 2235.

SENATOR WANZEK: 2nd.

VOTE: 7 (Yes) 0 (No) CARRIER: SENATOR KELSH

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2235

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, or in the alternative to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to school district employees' group health plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. If House Bill No. 1034 does not become effective, a new section to chapter 15-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

School district employees' group health plans. In contracting for a school district employees' group health plan, the board of a school district shall meet the bidding requirements of section 15-47-15. No contract for a school district employees' health plan may be of a duration greater than six years.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

School district employees' group health plans. In contracting for a school district employees' group health plan, the board of a school district shall meet the bidding requirements of section 15.1-09-34. No contract for a school district employees' health plan may be of a duration greater than six years."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/1/99
Roll Call Vote #: _____

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2235

Senate EDUCATION Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Moves to adopt amendment 90436.0101 to SB 2235

Motion Made By O Seconded By C

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg, Chairman	✓				
Senator Cook, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				
Senator Kelsh	✓				
Senator O'Connell	✓				
Senator Redlin					

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 2/1/99
Roll Call Vote #: 2

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2235

Senate EDUCATION Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Move Do Pass on SB 2235 as amended

Motion Made By O'Connell Seconded By Wanzek

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg, Chairman	✓				
Senator Cook, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Flakoll	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				
Senator Kelsh	✓				
Senator O'Connell	✓				
Senator Redlin	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Kelsh

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2235: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2235 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, or in the alternative to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to school district employees' group health plans.

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Renumber accordingly

1999 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2235

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2235

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-8-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape # 2		x	26.5 to 33.9
Tape #2		x	50.3 to end
Tape # 3	x		0.1 to 11.4
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Joan Diers</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman R Kelsch , Vice Chair Drovdal , Rep Brandenburg , Rep Brusegaard , Rep Haas , Rep Johnson , Rep Nelson , Rep Nottestad , Rep L Thoreson , Rep Grumbo , Rep. Hanson Rep. Lundgren , Rep. Mueller , Rep. Nowatzki , Rep. Solberg .

Chairman R Kelsch : we will open the hearing on SB 2235 and ask the clerk to read the title.

Senator Freborg: District 8 sponsor of the bill. introduced the bill. Relating to school district employees' group health plans. This bill would allow the school districts to bid for insurance more than the one year that the current law allows.

Rep Aarsvold: District 20 sponsor of the bill. Spoke in favor of the bill. This would provide a savings in cost of insurance.

Chairman R Kelsch : We will again take up SB 2235 and continue testimony in favor of SB 2235.

John Jankowski: Superintendent of Larimore Public Schools (See attached testimony)

End tape 2 side b, begin Tape 3 side a

Jankowski testimony continues

Rep Haas : Have any of the companies that would like to bid told you that six years would be better?

Jankowski: Of the six companies, one factor that did not allow companies to bid was the duration of the bid.

Rep Nelson : If this bill passes, how many bids you would expect that you would be able to have?

Jankowski: We have been talking to six companies but a couple of major companies are now interested.

Chairman R Kelsch : If this bill passes, would this help now or do we need an emergency clause?

Jankowski: I would help if the emergency clause was attached.

Rep. Nowatzki : In your testimony you said it was not cost effective to join the purs plan? Are school districts not allowed to join.

Jankowski: North Dakota PURS covers both a retirement and a health plan. They have stipulations on who has to receive coverage. We just cannot provide that benefit to all employees.

Rep. Nowatzki : It would not be cost effective to have two separate policies, one for the professionals and one for the classified?

Jankowski If we divide into two groups, we just don't have the numbers.

Rep. Nowatzki : Maybe it is time that we study all schools under one plan.

Jankowski: There is a lot of depends there, are you talking about the state picking up some of the cost, I don't know.

Rep Brandenburg : You are looking to be allowed to bid for multupal years for the school. If you could do that, I have worked with that and we had to put a poot of money in to start, is this the same?

Jankowski: This is not self-funded insurance, this is regular insurance.

Rep Johnson : What determines membership of your joint venture?

Jankowski: Any school is eligible, the cost is the problem.

Rep Haas : Are there other things that we can do to make it better for other bidders?

Jankowski: We are currently looking at four policies now.

Ron Torgeson: North Dakota Council Education Learders spoke in support of SB 2235.

Richard Ott: North Dakota School Board Association spoke in support of SB 2235.

Chairman R Kelsch : Anyone wishing to speak in support of SB 2235? Anyone wishing to speak in opposition of SB 2235? Seeing none we will close the hearing on SB 2235.

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2235-3-15-99

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-8-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape # 3	x		13.7 to 18.4
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Joan Diers</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman R Kelsch , Vice Chair Drovdal , Rep Brandenburg , Rep Brusegaard , Rep Haas , Rep Johnson , Rep Nelson , Rep Nottestad , Rep L Thoreson , Rep Grumbo , Rep. Lundgren , Rep. Mueller , Rep. Nowatzki , Rep. Solberg .

Chairman R Kelsch : We will take up SB 2235, what are the wishes of the committee?

Rep Brusegaard : Move that we amend SB 2235 by adding an emergency clause.

Chairman R Kelsch : Any committee discussion. Voice vote on amendment. Motion carries.

Wishes of the committee?

Rep Brusegaard : Move a DO PASS as amended.

Rep Nelson : seconded the motion. .

Chairman R Kelsch : Committee discussion. Hearing the clerk will call the roll on a DO PASS as amended. Motion passes 14 YES 0 No 1 Absent Floor assignment Rep Johnson .

VK
3/9/99

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2235 **Edu 3-9-99**

Page 1, line 3, after "plans" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

"SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-8-99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB-2235

House Education Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 90436.0201 .0300

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Brusegaard Seconded By Nelson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. ReaAnn Kelsch-Chairperson	✓		Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓	
Rep. David Drovdal-Vice Chair	✓				
Rep. Michael D. Brandenburg	✓				
Rep. Thomas T. Brusegaard	✓				
Rep. C. B. Haas	✓				
Rep. Dennis E. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Jon O. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				
Rep. Laurel Thoreson	✓				
Rep. Howard Grumbo	✓				
Rep. Lyle Hanson					
Rep. Deb Lundgren	✓				
Rep. Phillip Mueller	✓				
Rep. Robert E. Nowatzki	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Johnson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 9, 1999 5:19 p.m.

Module No: HR-42-4395
Carrier: D. Johnson
Insert LC: 90436.0201 Title: .0300

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2235, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2235 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, after "plans" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, after line 16, insert:

"SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

1999 TESTIMONY

SB 2235

Testimony on SB 2235

My name is John Jankowski, Superintendent of Larimore Public Schools. Larimore is located approximately 30 miles west of Grand Forks. For the past 18 months I along with other superintendents have been working together to find a way to provide health insurance for our employees at a reasonable rate. **Sixty six schools** (See Attached List) representing **1609 employees** have signed a joint powers agreement for the explicit purpose of joining together to bid health insurance for our employees. We have formed a cooperative now known as the **North Dakota Education Service Cooperative**. I am sorry to report that last summer upon our first request for bids our efforts failed. I must tell you that many predicted that we would fail, and will continue to fail. Others tell us good luck and they hope that we can be successful.

We have taken what we believe are the corrective actions necessary to once again ask for bids for health insurance. One of the last actions that I believe must be taken is to have the opportunity to bid our health insurance for multiple years.

We received requests for our proposal from six different companies, but over and over we heard that even if a given company had the lowest bid, our former health insurance provider would approach member schools the next year, and so to speak, pick off the choice schools individually. Choice schools being one that had high premiums, and low claims. So when the dust settled last summer our cooperative members were forced to go back to their previous health insurance provider.

How did the six years come to be? We visited with a representative from North Dakota PERS and were told that that is what they are allowed to do. So we are hoping to pattern our cooperative after that very successful model. A question that I could anticipate would

be why don't these schools join PERS? At the present time all schools cannot afford to join PERS as there guidelines for employee benefits would not be cost effective for many of the schools.

I believe that we must continue to work for our employees so that they have the opportunity to maximize the few dollars that they earn. We are being told that our current health insurance costs are expected to rise between **11% to 20%**. Currently in Larimore my teacher's family plan is **\$488.80 per month**. Using the rate of a **15% increase** this means that a family plan next year will **be \$6749** per year. Granted the Larimore school district pays approximately \$2500 of this amount, but it stills means that my teacher must pay **\$4250 out of their pocket**. I believe that I owe it to my teachers to continue my quest to somehow find a mechanism to offer them health insurance at a reasonable rate.

The North Dakota Education Service Cooperative will once again try to find a health insurance provide for its members. It may fail to receive the bids necessary to complete the task. However, your help in supporting SB 2235 is very important. The cooperative must be able to tell insurance companies that the work that they are doing to provide a competitive bid to the cooperative could give them six years of business, rather than one. Your message to the teachers is yes, we will do what we can to help you to find reasonable health insurance coverage.

Thank you for helping mine and so many teachers, and thank you for what you do for education. May I answer any questions?

NORTH DAKOTA JOINT POWERS MEMBERS

P. 2

NOV 10 10 03 AM '93 FAXES CTR SVL CUUP

<u>CONTACT NAME:</u>	<u>District Name:</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City, State, Zip</u>	<u>Phone#</u>	<u>Fax#</u>	<u>Insured</u>	<u>Total District Employees</u>
✓ Superintendent Murray Klaine	Alexander Public School	P.O. Box 66, School Street	Alexander, ND 58831	701-828-3335	701-828-3134	9	27
✓ Superintendent Tim Cross	Anamoose Public School	706 3rd Street West	Anamoose, ND 58710-4	701-465-3258	701-465-3258	12	28
✓ Supt., Doctor Vern Brenner	Beach Public School	P.O. Box 368, 600 N. Main	Beach, ND 58621	701-872-4161	701-872-3801	44	68
✓ Superintendent Wilfred Volesky	Beulah Public School	205 - 5TH Street. N.W.	Beulah, ND 58523	701-873-2261	701-873-5273	38	117
✓ Superintendent Dale Hoigie	Bowdon Public School	109 Greenwalk Street	Bowdon, ND 58418	701-962-3477	701-962-3476	8	16
✓ Superintendent Kenneth Kaylor	Burke Central School	101 4TH Ave. W.	Lignite, ND 58752-009	701-933-2821	701-933-2823	17	32
✓ Business Manager, Anita Bickett	Carrington Public School	100 3rd Ave. S.	Carrington, ND 58421	701-652-3136	701-652-1243	55	95
✓ Superintendent Wayne Levang	Cavalier Public School	300 Main Street. E.	Cavalier, ND 58220	701-265-8417	701-265-8106	50	90
✓ Superintendent Michael Ness	Center Public School	315 Lincoln Ave., P.O. Box	Center, ND 58530	701-794-3704	701-794-3659	26	65
✓ Superintendent Donald Nielsen	Divide County School District	206 First Street N.E.	Crosby, ND 58730	701-965-6313	701-965-6004	54	61
✓ Superintendent George Wieland	Drake Public School	P.O. Box 256, 701 N. Main	Drake, ND 58736	701-465-3634	701-465-3636	20	36
◆ ✓ Superintendent Martin F. Schock	Elgin/New Leipzig Public School	110 North West St., P.O. Bo	Elgin, ND 58533-0070	701-584-2374	701-584-3018	27	51
✓ Superintendent Kirk Hansen	Ellendale Public School District	321 N. 1ST Street	Ellendale, ND 58436	701-349-3232	701-329-3447	30	54
✓ Superintendent Dale Hoigie	Fessenden School District	500 N. 2nd Street	Fessenden, ND 58438	701-547-3296	701-547-3125	25	48
✓ Superintendent Jerry Srur	Gackle - Streeter School	P.O. Box 375, 2nd Ave. E.	Gackle, ND 58442	701-485-3692	701-485-3620	17	40
✓ Superintendent Mike Klabl	Garrison Public School	51 - 5TH Ave. N.E., P.O. Bo	Garrison, ND 58540	701-463-2818	701-463-2067	41	63
◆ ✓ Superintendent Charles Dunlop	Glenburn Public School	P.O. Box 138, Raymond Stre	Glenburn, ND 58740	701-362-7426	701-362-7349	25	50
◆ ✓ Superintendent Rodney Scherbenske	Goodrich Public School	211 - 4TH Street	Goodrich, ND 58444	701-884-2469	N/A	12	21
◆ ✓ Superintendent Gary Volk	Granville Public School	210 - 6TH Street S.W.	Granville, ND 58741	701-728-6641	701-728-6386	14	29
✓ Superintendent Clifton Lee	Grenora Public School	P.O. Box 38,	Grenora, ND 58845	701-694-2711	701-694-2711	20	18
✓ Superintendent Robert Marthaller	Harvey School District	811 Burke Ave.	Harvey, ND 58341	701-324-2265	701-324-4414	54	92
✓ Superintendent Jack Maus	Hatton Public School	PO Box 200	Hatton, ND 58240	701-543-3455	701-543-3459	26	30
✓ Superintendent George Ding	Hebron Public School	400 Church Ave., Box Q	Hebron, ND 58638	701-878-4442	701-878-4345	18	36
✓ Superintendent Gerald Batholomay	Hillsboro Public School	PO Box 579	Hillsboro, ND 58045	701-436-4360	701-436-4362	46	56
✓ Superintendent Greg Haugland	Kenmare Public School	300 - 7TH Ave. N.E.	Kenmare, ND 58746	701-385-4996	701-385-4390	24	59
✓ Superintendent Tom Tracy	Kensal Public School	PO Box 8	Kensal, ND 58455	701-435-2857	701-435-2857	11	13
✓ Principal, Arnold Kruse, Jr.	Lansford Public School	P.O. Box 8	Lansford, ND 58750	701-784-5522	701-784-5548	2	15
◆ ✓ Superintendent John Jankowski	Larimore Public School	300 Booth Ave.	Larimore, ND 58251	701-343-2366	701-343-2908	46	85
✓ Superintendent Steve Nelson	Linton Public School District	101 NE 3rd Street P.O. Box	Linton, ND 58552	701-254-4138	701-254-4313	30	58
✓ Superintendent James Gross	Litchville-Marion School Distric	104 Second Street	Marion, ND 58466	701-669-2261	701-669-2316	25	19
✓ Superintendent William Julson	Mayville Portland Clifford Gales	Westwood Acres	Mayville, ND 58257	701-786-2978	701-786-2959	40	
✓ Superintendent Steven Stevenson	Mc Clusky Public School	219 Ave. D West	Mc Clusky, ND 58463	701-363-2470	701-363-2239	12	25
✓ Superintendent Sherman Sylling	McKenzie County Public School	100 - 3RD Street	Watford City, ND 5885	701-842-3626	701-842-6345	62	76
✓ Superintendent James Dunnigan	Medina Public School	PO Box 47 300 School St. S	Medina, ND 58467	701-486-3121	701-486-3138	15	33
✓ Superintendent Kerwin Borgen	Midkota Public School	PO Box 38	Binford, ND 58416	701-676-2511	701-676-2510	37	50
✓ Superintendent Norm Datot	Midway Public School #128	3202 33rd Ave.	Inkster, ND 58244	701-869-2432	701-869-2688	29	47
✓ Superintendent Mike Bitz	Milnor Public School	PO Box 9	Milnor, ND 58060	701-427-9361	701-427-5237	14	32
✓ Superintendent Richard Maddock	Montpelier Public School	322 Bailey Ave.	Montpelier, ND 58472	701-489-3348	701-489-3349	4	27
◆ ✓ Superintendent Timothy Ketterling	Napoleon School District	615 - 3RD Street E.	Napoleon, ND 58561	701-754-2244	701-754-2233	20	35
✓ Superintendent Debbie Marshall	Newport(Towner) Public School	302 Second Street S.E.	Towner, ND 58788	701-537-5414	701-537-5413	34	24

NORTH DAKOTA JOINT POWERS MEMBERS

✓ Liz Huus, Business Manager	North Shore Public School	Third Ave. & Roe Street	Makoti, ND 58773	701-726-5591	701-726-5701	16	27
✓ Superintendent Helmut Habermann	Northern Cass School	PO Box 68, 135 2nd Ave.	Arthur, ND 58006	701-967-8344	701-967-8931	52	75
✓ Superintendent Gerald K. Ploam	Oberon School District	P.O. Box 2, A Street	Oberon, ND 58357	701-798-2231	N/A	4	11
✓ Superintendent Claude Sheldon	Park River School District	511 Hill Ave.	Park River, ND 58270	701-284-7164	701-284-7936	41	43
✓ Superintendent Gerald Christianson	Parshall Public School	501 North Main St.	Parshall, ND 58770	701-862-3129	701-862-3801	27	58
✓ Superintendent Dennis Adair	Pingree-Buchanan Public School	111 Lincoln Ave.	Pingree, ND 58476	701-252-5563	701-252-2245	22	22
✓ Superintendent Gerald Christianson	Plaza Public School	S. Covell Street	Plaza, ND 58771	701-497-3734	701-497-3401	8	17
✓ Superintendent David Hauwe	Ray Public School District	P.O. Box 564, 215 West Street	Ray, ND 58849	701-568-3301	701-568-3302	25	65
✓ Superintendent Gerald Quintas	Richardton Public School	PO Box 289	Richardton, ND 58652	701-974-2111	701-974-2161	20	25
✓ Superintendent Robert Briggs	Sawyer Public School	106 First Street S.	Sawyer, ND 58781-016	701-624-5167	701-624-5482	12	31
✓ Superintendent Garrett Titus	Sherwood Public School	600 Main Street, P.O. Box 9	Sherwood, ND 58782	701-459-2214	701-459-2749	19	22
✓ Business Manager, JoAnne Wentz	South Central Prairie Spec. ED	PO Box 7, 301 Broadway	Napoleon, ND 58561	701-754-2971	701-754-2972	1	2
✓ Superintendent Elroy Hagen	Stanley Public School	No. 1 Educational Road, P.O.	Stanley, ND 58784-001	701-628-3811	701-628-2279	33	71
✓ Superintendent Jim Eiseman	Strasburg Public School	P.O. Box 308, 307 W. Main	Strasburg, ND 58573	701-336-2667	701-336-7490	15	40
✓ Superintendent Robert Briggs	Surrey Public School	200 S.E. Second	Surrey, ND 58785	701-838-3282	701-838-8822	18	53
✓ Superintendent Robert Stringer	Sykeston Public School	Anson ST. & Ave. B	Sykeston, ND 58486	701-984-2392	701-984-2464	10	17
✓ Superintendent Bradley Webster	Tappen Public School	PO Box 127, Main Street	Tappen, ND 58487	701-327-4255	701-327-4255	7	24
✓ Superintendent Gerald Quintas	Taylor Public School	PO Box 157, 306 Brel	Taylor, ND 58656	701-974-3585	701-974-2161	12	14
✓ Superintendent David Rust	Tioga Public School	PO Box 279	Tioga, ND 58852	701-664-2333	701-664-3356	45	
✓ Superintendent Dan Martin	Underwood Public School	123 Summit Ave.	Underwood, ND 58576	701-442-3201	701-442-3704	20	55
✓ Superintendent Lee Kelm	Upham Public School	600 Fouts Street	Upham, ND 58789-002	701-768-2531	701-768-2510	12	14
✓ Superintendent Ron Stahlecker	Velva Public School	101 West 4TH Street	Velva, ND 58790	701-338-2022	701-338-2022	28	55
✓ Superintendent Marlyn Vatne	Wildrose-Alamo Public School	PO Box 697	Wildrose, ND 58795	701-539-2261	701-539-2270	8	13
✓ Superintendent Les Kramer	Wilton Public School	504 Dakota Ave.	Wilton, ND 58579	701-734-6331	701-734-6944	21	40
✓ Superintendent Jerry Gauderman	Wimbledon Courtenay School	PO 255, 1234 Education Dr	Wimbledon, ND 58492	701-435-2494	701-435-2365	21	31
✓ Superintendent Gene Kotaska	Wing Public School	4TH & Main	Wing, ND 58494	701-943-2319	701-943-2318	8	15
✓ Superintendent Corbley Ogren	Zeeland Public School	510 S. Main Street	Zeeland, ND 58581	701-423-5429	701-423-5465	11	15
					Total	1609	2676
Gary Brevig	School Masters	PO 1471	Minot, ND 58701	701-852-6575			

- ◆ Executive Committee Members
- ✓ Joint Powers Agreement

Testimony on SB 2235 for House Education Committee – March 8, 1999

My name is John Jankowski, Superintendent of Larimore Public Schools. Larimore is located approximately 30 miles west of Grand Forks. For the past 18 months I along with other superintendents have been working together to find a way to provide health insurance for our employees at a reasonable rate. Approximately **sixty-six schools** (see attached list) representing **1609 employees** began the process by signing a joint powers agreement for the explicit purpose of joining together to bid health insurance for our employees. We have formed a cooperative now known as the **North Dakota Service Cooperative**. I am sorry to report that last summer upon our first request for bids our efforts failed. I must tell you that many predicted that we would fail, and will continue to fail. Others tell us good luck and they hope that we can be successful.

We have taken what we believe are the corrective actions necessary to once again ask for bids for health insurance. One of the last actions that I believe must be taken is to have the opportunity to bid our health insurance for multiple years.

We received requests for our proposal from six different companies, but over and over we hear that even if a given company had the lowest bid, our former health insurance provider would approach member schools the next year, and so to speak, pick off the choice schools individually. Choice schools being one that had high premiums, and low claims. So when the dust settled last summer our cooperative members were forced to go back to their previous health insurance provider.

How did the six years come to be? We visited with a representative from North Dakota PERS and were told that that is what they are allowed to do. So we are hoping to pattern our cooperative after that very successful model. A question that I could anticipate would be why don't these schools join PERS? At the present time all schools cannot afford to join PERS as their guidelines for employee benefits would not be cost effective for many of the schools.

I believe that we must continue to work for our employees so that they have the opportunity to maximize the few dollars that they earn. We are being told that our current health insurance costs are expected to rise between **11% to 20%**. Currently in Larimore my teacher's family plan is **\$488.80 per month**. Using the rate of **15% increase** this means that a family plan next year will be **\$6749 per year**. Granted the Larimore school district plays approximately \$2500 of this amount, but it stills means that my teacher must pay **\$4250 out of their pocket**. I believe that I owe it to my teachers to continue my quest to somehow find a mechanism to offer them health insurance at a reasonable rate.

The North Dakota Service Cooperative will once again try to find a health insurance provider for its members. It may fail to receive the bids necessary to complete the task. However, your help in supporting SB 2235 is very important. The cooperative needs to

be able to tell insurance companies that the work that they are doing to provide a competitive bid to the cooperative could give them six years of business, rather than one.

Your message to the teachers is yes, we will do what we can to help you to find reasonable health insurance coverage.

Thank you for this opportunity, thank you for what you do for education. May I answer any questions?

NORTH DAKOTA JOINT POWERS MEMBERS

<u>CONTACT NAME:</u>	<u>District Name:</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City, State, Zip</u>	<u>Phone#</u>	<u>Fax#</u>	<u>Total Insured</u>	<u>Total District Employees</u>
✓ Superintendent Murray Klaine	Alexander Public School	P.O. Box 66, School Street	Alexander, ND 58831	701-828-3335	701-828-3134	9	27
✓ Superintendent Tim Cross	Anamoose Public School	706 3rd Street West	Anamoose, ND 58710-4	701-465-3258	701-465-3258	12	28
✓ Supt., Doctor Vern Brenner	Beach Public School	P.O. Box 368, 600 N. Main	Beach, ND 58621	701-872-4161	701-872-3801	44	68
✓ Superintendent Wilfred Volesky	Beulah Public School	205 - 5TH Street. N.W.	Beulah, ND 58523	701-873-2261	701-873-5273	38	117
✓ Superintendent Dale Hoigie	Bowdon Public School	109 Greenwalk Street	Bowdon, ND 58418	701-962-3477	701-962-3476	8	16
✓ Superintendent Kenneth Kaylor	Burke Central School	101 4TH Ave.. W.	Lignite, ND 58752-009	701-933-2821	701-933-2823	17	32
✓ Business Manager, Anita Bickett	Carrington Public School	100 3rd Ave. S.	Carrington, ND 58421	701-652-3136	701-652-1243	55	95
✓ Superintendent Wayne Levang	Cavalier Public School	300 Main Street. E.	Cavalier, ND 58220	701-265-8417	701-265-8106	50	90
✓ Superintendent	Center Public School	315 Lincoln Ave., P.O. Box	Center, ND 58530	701-794-3704	701-794-3659	26	65
✓ Superintendent Donald Nielsen	Divide County School District	206 First Street N.E.	Crosby, ND 58730	701-965-6313	701-965-6004	54	61
✓ Superintendent George Wieland	Drake Public School	P.O. Box 256, 701 N. Main	Drake, ND 58736	701-465-3634	701-465-3636	20	36
◆ ✓ Superintendent Martin F. Schock	Elgin/New Leipzig Public School	110 North West St., P.O. Bo	Elgin, ND 58533-0070	701-584-2374	701-584-3018	27	51
✓ Superintendent Kirk Hansen	Ellendale Public School District	321 N. 1ST Street	Ellendale, ND 58436	701-349-3232	701-329-3447	30	54
✓ Superintendent Dale Hoigie	Fesseden School District	500 N. 2nd Street	Fesseden, ND 58438	701-547-3296	701-547-3125	25	48
✓ Superintendent Jerry Srur	Gackle - Streeter School	P.O. Box 375, 2nd Ave. E.	Gackle, ND 58442	701-485-3692	701-485-3620	17	40
✓ Superintendent Mike Klablo	Garrison Public School	51 - 5TH Ave. N.E., P.O. Bo	Garrison, ND 58540	701-463-2818	701-463-2067	41	63
◆ ✓ Superintendent Charles Dunlop	Glenburn Public School	P.O. Box 138, Raymond Stre	Glenburn, ND 58740	701-362-7426	701-362-7349	25	50
◆ ✓ Superintendent Rodney Scherbenske	Goodrich Public School	211 - 4TH Street	Goodrich, ND 58444	701-884-2469	701-884-2496	12	21
◆ ✓ Superintendent Gary Volk	Granville Public School	210 - 6TH Street S.W.	Granville, ND 58741	701-728-6641	701-728-6386	14	29
✓ Superintendent Clifton Lee	Grenora Public School	P.O. Box 38,	Grenora, ND 58845	701-694-2711	701-694-2711	20	18
✓ Superintendent Robert Marthaller	Harvey School District	811 Burke Ave.	Harvey, ND 58341	701-324-2265	701-324-4414	54	92
✓ Superintendent Jack Maus	Hatton Public School	PO Box 200	Hatton, ND 58240	701-543-3455	701-543-3459	26	30
✓ Superintendent George Ding	Hebron Public School	400 Church Ave., Box Q	Hebron, ND 58638	701-878-4442	701-878-4345	18	36
✓ Superintendent Gerald Batholomay	Hillsboro Public School	PO Box 579	Hillsboro, ND 58045	701-436-4360	701-436-4362	46	56
✓ Superintendent Greg Haugland	Kenmare Public School	300 - 7TH Ave. N.E.	Kenmare, ND 58746	701-385-4996	701-385-4390	24	59
✓ Superintendent Tom Tracy	Kensal Public School	PO Box 8	Kensal, ND 58455	701-435-2857	701-435-2857	11	13
✓ Principal, Arnold Kruse, Jr.	Lansford Public School	P.O. Box 8	Lansford, ND 58750	701-784-5522	701-784-5548	2	15
◆ ✓ Superintendent John Jankowski	Larimore Public School	300 Booth Ave.	Larimore, ND 58251	701-343-2366	701-343-2908	46	85
✓ Superintendent Steve Nelson	Linton Public School District	101 NE 3rd Street P.O. Box	Linton, ND 58552	701-254-4138	701-254-4313	30	58
✓ Superintendent James Gross	Litchville-Marion School District	104 Second Street	Marion, ND 58466	701-669-2261	701-669-2316	25	19
✓ Superintendent Richard Cheatly	Maddock School District	P.O. Box G, Campus Drive	Maddock, ND 58348	701-438-2531	701-438-2620	38	38
✓ Superintendent William Julson	Mayville Portland Clifford Gales	Westwood Acres	Mayville, ND 58257	701-786-2978	701-786-2959	40	
✓ Superintendent Steven Stevenson	Mc Clusky Public School	219 Ave. D West	McClusky, ND 58463	701-363-2470	701-363-2239	12	25
✓ Superintendent Sherman Sylling	McKenzie County Public School	100 - 3RD Street	Watford City, ND 5885	701-842-3626	701-842-6345	62	76
✓ Superintendent James Dunnigan	Medina Public School	PO Box 47 300 School St. S	Medina, ND 58467	701-486-3121	701-486-3138	15	33
✓ Superintendent Kerwin Borgen	Midkota Public School	PO Box 38	Binford, ND 58416	701-676-2511	701-676-2510	37	50
✓ Superintendent Ken Reed	Midway Public School #128	3202 33rd Ave.	Inkster, ND 58244	701-869-2432	701-869-2688	29	47
✓ Superintendent Mike Bitz	Milnor Public School	PO Box 9	Milnor, ND 58060	701-427-9361	701-427-5237	14	32
✓ Superintendent Richard Maddock	Montpelier Public School	322 Bailey Ave.	Montpelier, ND 58472	701-489-3348	701-489-3349	4	27
◆ ✓ Superintendent Timothy Ketterling	Napoleon School District	615 - 3RD S	Napoleon, ND 58561	701-754-2244	701-754-2233		35

NORTH DAKOTA JOINT POWERS MEMBERS

✓ Superintendent Debbie Marshall	Newport(Towner) Public School	302 Second Street S.E.	Towner, ND 58788	701-537-5414	701-537-5413	34	24	
✓ Liz Huus, Business Manager	North Shore Public School	Third Ave. & Rose Street	Makoti, ND 58773	701-726-5591	701-726-5701	16	27	
✓ Superintendent Gerald K. Ploium	Oberon School District	P.O. Box 2, A Street	Oberon, ND 58357	701-798-2231	N/A	4	11	
✓ Superintendent Claude Sheldon	Park River School District	511 Hill Ave.	Park River, ND 58270	701-284-7164	701-284-7936	41	43	
✓ Superintendent Gerald Christianson	Parshall Public School	501 North Main St.	Parshall, ND 58770	701-862-3129	701-862-3801	27	58	
✓ Superintendent Dennis Adair	Pingree-Buchanan Public School	111 Lincoln Ave.	Pingree, ND 58476	701-252-5563	701-252-2245	22	22	
✓ Superintendent Gerald Christianson	Plaza Public School	S. Covell Street	Plaza, ND 58771	701-497-3734	701-497-3401	8	17	
✓ Superintendent David Hauwe	Ray Public School District	P.O. Box 564, 215 West Street	Ray, ND 58849	701-568-3301	701-568-3302	25	65	
✓ Superintendent Gerald Quintus	Richardton Public School	PO Box 289	Richardton, ND 58652	701-974-2111	701-974-2161	20	25	
✓ Superintendent Robert Briggs	Sawyer Public School	106 First Street S.	Sawyer, ND 58781-016	701-624-5167	701-624-5482	12	31	
✓ Superintendent Garrett Titus	Sherwood Public School	600 Main Street, P.O. Box 9	Sherwood, ND 58782	701-459-2214	701-459-2749	19	22	
✓ Business Manager, JoAnne Wentz	South Central Prairie Spec. ED	PO Box 7, 301 Broadway	Napoleon, ND 58561	701-754-2971	701-754-2972	1	2	
✓ Superintendent Elroy Hagen	Stanley Public School	No. 1 Educational Road, P.O. Box 1	Stanley, ND 58784-001	701-628-3811	701-628-2279	33	71	
✓ Superintendent Jim Eiseman	Strasburg Public School	P.O. Box 308, 307 W. Main	Strasburg, ND 58573	701-336-2667	701-336-7490	15	40	
◆ Superintendent Robert Briggs	Surrey Public School	200 S.E. Second	Surrey, ND 58785	701-838-3282	701-838-8822	18	53	
✓ Superintendent Robert Stringer	Sykeston Public School	Anson ST. & Ave. B	Sykeston, ND 58486	701-984-2392	701-984-2464	10	17	
✓ Superintendent Bradley Webster	Tappen Public School	PO Box 127, Main Street	Tappen, ND 58487	701-327-4255	701-327-4255	7	24	
✓ Superintendent Gerald Quintus	Taylor Public School	PO Box 157, 306 Ertel	Taylor, ND 58656	701-974-3585	701-974-2161	12	14	
✓ Superintendent David Rust	Tioga Public School	PO Box 279	Tioga, ND 58852	701-664-2333	701-664-3356	45		
✓ Superintendent Dan Martin	Underwood Public School	123 Summit Ave.	Underwood, ND 58576	701-442-3201	701-442-3704	20	55	
✓ Superintendent Lee Kelm	Upham Public School	600 Fouts Street	Upham, ND 58789-002	701-768-2531	701-768-2510	12	14	
✓ Superintendent Steve Dick	Velva Public School	101 West 4TH Street	Velva, ND 58790	701-338-2022	701-338-2022	28	55	
✓ Superintendent Marlyn Vatne	Wildrose-Alamo Public School	PO Box 697	Wildrose, ND 58795	701-539-2261	701-539-2270	8	13	
✓ Superintendent Les Kramer	Wilton Public School	504 Dakota Ave.	Wilton, ND 58579	701-734-6331	701-734-6944	21	40	
✓ Superintendent Jerry Gauderman	Wimbledon Courtenay School	PO 255, 1234 Education Drive	Wimbledon, ND 58492	701-435-2494	701-435-2365	21	31	
✓ Superintendent Gene Kotaska	Wing Public School	4TH & Main	Wing, ND 58494	701-943-2319	701-943-2318	8	15	
✓ Superintendent Corbley Ogren	Zeeland Public School	510 S. Main Street	Zeeland, ND 58581	701-423-5429	701-423-5465	11	15	
						Total	1595	2639
Gary Brevig	School Masters	PO 1471	Minot, ND 58701	701-852-6575				

◆ Executive Committee Members

✓ Joint Powers Agreement