



NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota United thanks Senator Heitkamp for vote against DeVos

BISMARCK, N.D. – The members of North Dakota United, including educators and school support staff in every community across the state of North Dakota, stand in firm opposition to the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. Since the announcement of DeVos’ appointment to the top post in our nation’s public education system in November, our members have been very active, and very vocal with our two U.S. Senators – Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven – who will ultimately vote on DeVos’ confirmation. Hundreds of our members have sent e-mails, letters and made phone calls to our two representatives in the U.S. Senate, urging them to vote “no” on her confirmation.

We are all incredibly proud to see that our voices have been heard, as Sen. Heidi Heitkamp has announced today that she will be voting against DeVos’ confirmation as Secretary of Education.

“North Dakotans absolutely support our strong and health public education system,” said NDU President Nick Archuleta. “Opinion polls routinely rate the public support for K-12 education in the state of North Dakota at the top of national rankings. Public education works in our state. We do not need to upend our system of public schools with vouchers and charter schools. The only experience Betsy DeVos has is in undermining public school funding, and sending taxpayer dollars to for-profit charters and private schools.

“North Dakota educators do not support her nomination, and we collectively thank Senator Heitkamp for hearing our objections and committing to vote against DeVos. Thank you, Senator, for standing firmly on the side of public education.”

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North Dakota United is the largest professional association of public educators and employees in the state, representing more than 11,500 public school teachers, school staff, university faculty and staff, and city, county and state employees. Our union advocates for our members in the state Capitol, the Legislature, in schools, on college campuses and at worksites across the state, and in our communities, promoting the great public education and great public services that the citizens of North Dakota deserve.

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