



NEWS RELEASE

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Education Associations Join Forces to Support Measure 2

BISMARCK, N.D. – The preeminent education organizations in North Dakota have joined forces in support of Constitutional Measure 2. North Dakota United, which represents in excess of 11,500 educators and public employees, and the N.D. Council of Educational Leaders, which represents public school administrators, announced a campaign to ensure the passage of Measure 2. The passage of Measure 2 is seen as crucial to ensure that K-12 education will receive the funding necessary to provide outstanding educational services for the children of N.D.

“I think it says a great deal that our two organizations have come to the same realization that without Measure 2, it will be highly unlikely that K-12 education will be fully funded in the next biennium,” said NDU President Nick Archuleta. “The economic realities that our Legislature is facing will result in some very difficult budget cuts. The Foundation Aid Stabilization Fund contains almost \$610,000,000 and, without Measure 2, is essentially a stranded asset because current law does not allow for its use unless the Governor calls for an allotment.”

“Very simply put, a ‘yes’ vote on Measure 2 is good for kids,” said Archuleta “We cannot allow for K-12 funding to diminish if we hope to recruit and retain highly skilled educators, and provide modern and efficient learning environments for the children of North Dakota.”

Measure 2 was placed onto the ballot by the 2015 Legislature, and would amend the state constitution to allow increased access to funds that have deposited into the State Aid Stabilization Fund. Currently, 10 percent of the revenue received from oil extraction taxes in the state are being placed into this stabilization fund, and principal of the fund can only be extracted by order of the Governor, and can only go toward offsetting any reductions in state aid to school districts due to a revenue shortage. This measure would allow the Legislature “to use any excess principal balance of the foundation aid stabilization fund for education-related purposes whenever the balance exceeds 15 percent of the general fund appropriation for state aid to school districts for the most recently completed biennium.”

(more)

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“After significant research and consideration, the NDCEL board has taken a position to support Measure 2,” said Aimee Copas, Executive Director of NDCEL. “It is important to K-12 public education to have the original purpose of the foundation aid stabilization fund protected by the 15 percent state aid, as stated in Measure 2. It subsequently allows K-12 public education the opportunity to work with our partners in the Legislature to fund critical educational necessities and assure the integrity of our state aid for each student in North Dakota by having access to what would otherwise be a locked asset.”

For more information on the Vote Yes on Measure 2 campaign, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/YesOnMeasure2, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/YesOnMeasure2.

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