In mid-February, several of the executive board members from the association went to Washington for the National Leaders Conference. During this conference, we had the opportunity to visit with Senator Heitkamp and Senator Hoeven. Representative Cramer was not available, but we did meet with one of his staffers. In our conversation with the congressional delegation, we stressed our concerns with the changing climate of education in North Dakota. We shared our concerns of the number of children that have experienced trauma in their lives that are having a difficult time learning. Each of us were able to share examples of how our schools have changed in the past few years. We also thanked the senators and representative for their support of the reauthorization of the ESEA (formerly known as No Child Left Behind and now known as ESSA-Every Student Succeeds Act). It seems that the folks in Washington have the same desire to have acronyms as those of us in education!

In my article last month, I spoke of the collection of NDAESP materials that I received from the NDCEL office just before they moved to their new location. There a couple of NDAESP banners we should display at the Mid-Winter conference that were in the collection. Also in the boxes were copies of *The North Dakota Principal*. This was the name of our newsletter before it was changed to *The Voice*, Meeting agendas/minutes from a few years as well as financial reports for several years had been saved over the years by some of the executive teams. In visiting with Dave Hanson, we decided it would be important to digitize the newsletters and put them on our web page. Our plans are to digitize these materials this summer.

This will be my last article as Federal Relations representative for NDAESP. It has been an honor and a privilege to be able to serve in this capacity over the past several years. I would continue encourage you to become involved and follow happenings in Washington – especially with issues that affect our work with children. It is imperative that we “share our stories” about the children of our state. Contact information for our senators and representative are easy to find – Google their name and you’ll get a web page with contact information – their local offices as well as their Washington office.

Congratulations to Jason Hornbacher as he begins his journey as the new Federal Relations representative for NDAESP.