

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1430
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 26, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of HB 1430.

NDDPI supports the idea of providing opportunities for students, and we support the concept of the bill regarding awarding students for accomplishments achieved. Currently by law, a student can receive either the Academic or CTE Scholarship, but cannot receive both, even if they meet the qualifications for both scholarships. On average, between 400-500 students each year meet the qualifications for both scholarships, but under current law, can only receive one of the two scholarships. Passage of HB 1430 would allow students in this situation to receive both an Academic and CTE Scholarship. As you know, there are a number of bills that have been introduced so far this legislative session relating to the Academic and CTE Scholarship, and as you consider each of these bills, please consider the opportunities that the Academic and CTE Scholarships provide for our students.

We do have one concern about the current language. The bill does not specify when this potential change in scholarship funding would begin. Would it be for the Class of 2021? The Class of 2022?, etc. We believe some clarity should be added to the bill to define which graduating classes will be the first to receive these additional scholarship funds, and in what academic year at their respective colleges and universities.

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.