



House Education – SB 2140

Emmery Mehlhoff, NDFB Public Policy Liaison

March 8, 2021

Chairman Owens and members of the committee,

My name is Emmery Mehlhoff and I represent the North Dakota Farm Bureau and we support SB 2140.

Veterinarians are the lifeblood of our livestock operations and NDFB supports PSEP as an investment into the future veterinarians who will serve and will serve our operations.

School is expensive and the salary of a large-animal veterinarian is modest. The best way to build ND's next generation of veterinarians is to keep school costs affordable and repayable rather than forcing students into an insecure situation of adding over \$100,000 of additional debt if the student is unable to find immediate opportunity in ND.

Life ebbs and flows and a student who may not be in a situation to return to ND in the first few years of their career may be in the position to return later into their career.

We believe in the success rate of PSEP for our veterinarian students. With many of the large-animal veterinarians in our small rural communities are nearing retirement age, we believe ND's investment into the vet students is an investment into the future of ND's livestock operations.

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