

Senate Education
HB1083
March 10, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support of HB1083.

As we all know, education was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although educators rose to the challenge to continue to provide quality education virtually, students that were on track to qualify for the North Dakota Academic or Career and Technical Education Scholarships, may not have earned necessary grades. This was due to the quick transition to distance learning, not at the fault of the student, the teacher or the school district. HB1083 would provide scholarship eligibility to students that may have been negatively impacted by this quick transition to distance education. To add to this, some school districts transitioned to a pass/fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading model, in response to COVID-19. Again, HB1083 would allow those students to earn the scholarship they were on path to achieve.

As you may know, there is a failsafe included in the North Dakota scholarship. If a student, upon high school graduation and enrollment in a post-secondary program, does not meet the GPA or enrollment requirements, they could lose their scholarship. The student needs to continue to achieve at a satisfactory pace to maintain their semester or quarterly disbursement. These requirements will ensure, that in spite of any perceived lowering of standards due to the passing of HB1083, the validity of the North Dakota State Scholarship will be maintained.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.