

## **Testimony for the Senate Education Committee**

**January 12, 2021**

**Nicole Poolman, District 7**

Good morning Chairman Schaible and members of the Education Committee, my name is Nicole Poolman, State Senator from District 7 here in Bismarck and Lincoln. I am here to introduce SB 2136, a bill to make some minor changes to the ND Academic and CTE Scholarships.

The first change has been requested by CTE math teachers in my district to include Integrated Math II and III as options to fulfill the Algebra II requirement for the CTE Scholarship. These are challenging courses where math concepts are integrated into practical career and technical education courses. It is important to understand that this is not a watering down of the requirement; these courses still include rigorous math instruction and application of concepts. You will hear from one of our exceptional instructors at Bismarck Public Schools to give you some specific examples and answer any questions you may have about these courses.

The second change on page two of the bill reduces the education pathway we created last session from three credits down to two. This is in line with all other pathways, but when we initially created it, we wanted to include two units of methodology. Now that Century High School has created a four-credit, dual credit course in methodology in cooperation with the University of Mary, we feel one year is sufficient, and we would like to see our students taking dual credit Speech, AP Psychology, Peer-to-Peer, and Child Development courses in order to be best prepared for collegiate education programs.

The third change on page three just removes a sunset put in place last session in order to give CTE the time to create an education pathway. They have created a pathway, and it is nice, but we want to maintain this more challenging pathway at Century High School. The pathway created by CTE is geared to those who would teach preschool or work in a day care, and out of the approximately 90 enrollments we have had over the years at CHS, none of them are interested in preschool. They are all interested in teaching and coaching in elementary, middle, and high school. We have even had a few interested in becoming college professors.

Removing this sunset only opens this up to two or three additional students a year, as many of them will meet the ACT requirement on the ND Scholarship, but these few kids are students who will become excellent teachers in the future, so we feel strongly about maintaining this pathway under CTE.

The rest of the changes beginning on page six of the bill have been requested by Tammy Dolan at the University Office, and she will be speaking to you about these changes:

1. Clarify that scholarships must be used at institutions with a physical presence in ND. (Section 1, 1a & 1b)
2. Allow scholarships to be used at accredited private career schools, such as Lynnes Welding & Josef's School of Hair Design. We've had requests for this change from CTE and students for a few years now. Welding is also a high demand occupation in ND. (Section 1, 1b)
3. Update language throughout to refer to "program" completion rather than "degree"
4. Add language throughout providing for "clock hour" terms, which are used at Lynnes, Josef's. This would be in addition to traditional semester & quarter terms.
5. Clarify that notification of failure to meet the requirements for ongoing scholarship eligibility must be provided to the student within 10 business days.
6. Clarifies that scholarships can be applied to professional programs (law school, med school, etc.) in addition to graduate programs (Section 1, 5b)
7. Eliminates language no longer necessary due to above changes (Section 2, 2a & 2b)

None of the changes will have a significant fiscal impact. The University Office has worked with the Department of Career & Technical Education and Department of Public Instruction to incorporate their suggestions. All three organizations support the NDUS office's proposed changes.

Thank you for your time and consideration today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.