

Testimony of Emily Dorsey, College of Veterinary Medicine Student

Iowa State University

In Support of SB 2140

01/18/21

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I'm Emily Dorsey, and I am representing NDVMA and other North Dakota students, testifying in support of SB 2140. I am currently a first-year student at Iowa State University College of Veterinary medicine and I am focused on a small animal/exotics field as well as a possible orthopedics speciality interested in giving my expertise back to the state of North Dakota after graduation. I am representing myself and other veterinary students testifying in support to SB 2140.

I applied to veterinary school in the fall of 2019 alongside applying for PSEP to try and gain access to the opportunity to have a lessened tuition cost, as the cost today is already extremely high. The PSEP had added a new "comeback or payback" regulation that same year that would require students to either come back and work in the state of North Dakota or pay back the tuition cost they had helped to pay during schooling. With this being added so quickly during the year I had applied, I was never given the opportunity to speak on the issues I have on it.

Working in North Dakota in the past has always been delightful and I fully planned on returning after graduation to give back to my community that had given me so much. However, I do have concerns about the comeback or payback regulation. To start, many students that are in my position when it comes to this regulation are afraid of the inability to find a job right out of school that both fits their needs and wants when it comes to a practice. I believe that because of this, if one wasn't able to find a job the regulation would thus push them to have to instead pay back the state. I believe that most students coming out of North Dakota already have the idea of going back to the state after graduation and that this regulation was not necessary in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and express support for this bill and for your continued commitment to working together to address the needs of North Dakotans. I urge you to support SB 2140.