

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1451  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**January 31, 2023**

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director of School Approval and Opportunity**

**701-328-2244**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Chairman Heinert 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 1451.

The Academic and CTE Scholarships were created in 2009, at an amount of \$6000. The first students to receive the scholarship graduated from high school in 2010, being able to use the scholarship in college starting with the 2010-2011 school year. At that time, the annual cost of attendance at UND and NDSU was \$17,338, Minot State University was \$14,802, the regional four-year universities was \$14,005, and the two-year colleges was \$12,799. The scholarship is paid at a rate of \$750 per semester (\$1500 per school year), meaning that for the 2010-2011 school year, the scholarship covered between eight and twelve percent of a student's cost of attendance.

The \$6000 scholarship amount has not been increased since the program's inception in 2009. Today, the annual cost of attendance for UND and NDSU is \$24,900, Minot State University is \$20,550, the regional four-year universities is

\$21,568, and the two-year colleges is \$18,187. That means that today, the scholarship only covers between six and eight percent of a student's cost of attendance. The cost of college has continued to rise over the last twelve years, but the amount of the scholarship has remained constant at \$6000.

NDDPI supports HB 1451 to increase the scholarship amount and provide students the same level of overall scholarship benefit available when the program was first created.

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