

Chairman Elkin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Stacy Duffield. I am the director of the Office of Teaching and Learning at North Dakota State University, and I am providing testimony on behalf of NDSU and UND in support of SB2200, a bill for an Act to provide an appropriation to the Department of Public Instruction for North Dakota governor's schools.

ND Governor's School has a rich and successful history, beginning at NDSU in 1990, and serving hundreds of students representing every county in North Dakota over its 30 years. Its impact has been far reaching and vast. For example, during the most recent five years of the program, 96% of the scholars reported their study skills improved as a result of NDGS; 67% said their study skills improved; 93% reported their interest in learning increased; and 86% rated their overall experience as excellent and stated that they were able to learn more than was offered at their high schools.

Governor's School offers its scholars unique opportunities to learn and participate in research and learning in valuable areas such as engineering, health care—including mental health, technology, law, agriculture, education, and more. These are all areas North Dakota needs as we develop a high-quality work force. Governor's School provides scholars opportunities for academic, social, and leadership growth, allowing scholars to explore areas for advanced degrees to serve our state.

I am excited about the opportunity this allows NDSU and UND to collaborate to serve the needs of North Dakota learners, working together to increase opportunities for high school students and extend the range of areas these scholars can explore. It is our request that this experience be fully funded for scholars, providing access to all selected participants and not excluding anyone because of their inability to pay. Dr. Karyn Plumm from UND and I have worked through a tentative budget and believe we can each serve 40-50 scholars on our campuses each year with the appropriation in the current bill.

I want to close my testimony with quotes from two former Governor's School attendees, Marie from Wyndmere and Jason from Williston.

Marie said, "Governor's School gave me academic opportunities that I couldn't find anywhere else. It also put me in an environment that helped me grow and learn an enormous amount about myself, other Governor's Schools students who became great friends, and the world."

Jason said, "NDGS has changed my life, making me more productive, disciplined, and an overall better person. Couldn't have asked for a better way to spend my summer."

I am available for any questions you may have.

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