

**Provost & Vice President
for Academic Affairs**

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Chairman Elkin and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Karyn Plumm. I am the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success at the University of North Dakota, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of UND and NDSU 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. With the support of Provost Link and President Armacost at UND, I have been working closely with Dr. Stacy Duffield at NDSU on this collaboration.

The focus of the ND Governor's School is to provide a unique opportunity for our high-achieving high school students across the state to consider advanced degrees in service to the state. Students participating in the Governor School programs will gain hands-on research experience with faculty and graduate students, learn about professions in fields that require or recommend graduate or professional degrees, and start to think, not only about their academic path to those professions but, about how they might ultimately build a career in North Dakota.

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.

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

I am also 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. The Law and Medical Schools on the UND campus provide unique opportunities for students to engage with faculty and programs in energy law, health science, and mental health care. 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. Duffield 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at karyn.plumm@und.edu or 701-777-1322.

Karyn M. Plumm, PhD