



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Jonathan Sickler

District 17
152 Christian Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201-9304
jsickler@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Government Operations Division

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2147

House Education Committee

March 10, 2025

SB 2147 makes changes to two existing higher education financial aid and scholarship programs. Details are described in other testimony. In short, the bill makes certain technical corrections to the Career Builders scholarship and loan repayment programs. Substantively, the bill expands eligible participants to those who work in North Dakota and live within 50 miles of North Dakota. Also, employers who provide match funds for either the scholarship or loan repayment programs are given greater flexibility to set the conditions that would trigger repayment based on factors that are most relevant to a particular employer.

Second, the bill would provide needs-based funds to lower-income North Dakota students whose federal aid and other sources of financial aid do not cover tuition at a North Dakota higher education institution. This modest additional financial aid would allow more of our lowest-income citizens the opportunity to better their lives and improve the economic condition of the state by continuing their education at a North Dakota college or university.

SB 2147 builds on existing financial aid and scholarship programs that are specifically targeted to address workforce shortages of our most in-demand jobs as well as provide aid to low-income North Dakota students who otherwise may not be able to take advantage of the education and training programs offered in our state.