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Senate Bill 2242
House Education Committee
March 5, 2025

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Katherine Kempel, and I serve as the Governmental Affairs Commissioner for the University of North Dakota's (UND) Student Government. I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 2242, relating to providing a legislative management study relating to institutions of higher education.

UND's Student Government has identified two primary areas of concern within this bill including lack of student representation and the inclusion of student fees within this study.

1. Subsection 1.b. of this bill states that the study must include an analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students. State Board of Higher Education Policy 805.3 relating to fees currently outlines the involvement of either an institution's student body or its elected representative body in establishing the amount and potential increases in student fees.¹ At UND, students are heavily involved in the process of determining the allocation of student fees. The duty of analyzing and reviewing the usage of fees paid by students at each institution should follow current policy and remain within the institutions. Because of this, we recommend that the cost of fees for students be removed from this analysis.
2. UND's Student Government is also concerned about the lack of student representation on this proposed committee that has the potential to significantly impact the direction of higher education in North Dakota. To account for this, we recommend that the Student Member of the State Board of Higher Education be included as a nonvoting member of this committee.

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I respectfully request a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2242 as written. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Kempel

¹ <https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/800-heading-policies/>