



**Testimony for 69th Legislative Assembly – Senate Education Committee**

**March 11, 2025**

**Andy Armacost, President, UND**

**andrew.armacost@UND.edu | 701.777.2121**

**In Support of Engrossed House Bill 1529**

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Andy Armacost, and I serve as the President of the University of North Dakota. I am offering my support for Engrossed House Bill 1529 and the adoption of language in ND Century Code that would grant “resident student” status for tuition purposes to individuals who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers.

For decades, the Peace Corps, an official program of the U.S. Government, has served developing countries around the world. Its volunteers are skilled workers who typically serve for several years and receive only a modest stipend to cover the cost of living in their host nation.

The University of North Dakota has a tradition of preparing students for service as Peace Corps Volunteers by offering an 18 credit-hour Peace Corps Prep certificate program. We do so with our strongest support, knowing that service in the Peace Corps closely aligns with our university vision, which specifies the university’s commitment to service.

The proposed “resident status” will enable returning Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to attend UND or any school in the North Dakota University System at the resident rate, regardless of the state from which they come. Recognizing their service in this way thanks them and offers them an affordable opportunity to make a transition into the next phase of their careers, likely through one of our many graduate or professional programs.

The University of North Dakota views Peace Corps Volunteer service as truly exceptional, and we fully support this bill.