



HB 1108

February 10, 2025

Sammi Weber, North Dakota Student Association

Sammi.Weber@und.edu

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weber, and I am the President of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1108 on behalf of the NDSA.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System (NDUS), and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The NDSA has been long committed to advocating for student mental health and well-being. On October 26, 2024, the NDSA General Assembly passed [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium. One of our priorities outlined in the resolution states is "expanding mental health resources on NDUS campuses." A critical step toward achieving this goal is North Dakota's participation in the interstate contract for the treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder. This agreement would ensure that students from bordering states attending college in North Dakota have greater access to off-campus mental health services.

Due to a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals, the NDUS has faced significant challenges in staffing counselors and psychologists. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor, the

occupation growth rate for psychologists from 2023 to 2033 is projected to be 7%, which is 3% higher than the average growth rate across all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor). As demand continues to outpace resources available, students experience longer waiting times for counseling appointments that fit their busy schedules—sometimes waiting weeks. Passing HB 1108 will provide students from bordering states with faster access to mental health care. Additionally, reducing the demand on campus will help students from non-bordering states receive care more quickly.

Ensuring and expanding access to mental health resources is essential for student success and well-being. With HB 1108, North Dakota will take a vital step toward addressing the growing need for mental health resources in the state. By contributing to student well-being, North Dakota fosters a stronger, healthier future for the state.

On behalf of the NDSA, I respectfully ask the committee for a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1108.

Reference

“Psychologists.” *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 29 Aug. 2024, www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm.