



*Great Public Schools*

*Great Public Service*

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**Testimony on SB 2003  
House Appropriations Committee (E&E)  
March 8, 2021**

Chairman Monson and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am president of North Dakota United. Among our 11, 500 members, we are proud to include higher education faculty and education support professionals. On behalf of our members, I rise today to urge a DOPASS recommendation on SB 2003

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of a strong and vibrant North Dakota University System. As I am sure you are aware, a recent report from the NDSU Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department revealed that primary and secondary expenditures resulted in a **\$5.5B** impact on the economy of North Dakota. The study also showed that for every dollar of state appropriated funds, ND's colleges and universities leveraged \$2.82 from external sources. Clearly, our university system is a major driver of economic activity in North Dakota and ought to be recognized as such.

Chairman Monson, the NDUS is a committed and proven force for good in the preparation of our state's work force. Our colleges and universities are among the nation's best, but they need our support now more than ever. Our university system is in constant competition-regionally, nationally, and even globally- for the best researchers, faculty, and students. The private industries that are helping to finance the latest research in agriculture, medicine, public health, artificial intelligence, and best practices in teaching and learning, can partner with any institution of higher education in the world to do this important work. It is no coincidence that they choose to partner with universities that are supported and respected.

The past few years have been difficult for our colleges and universities. For faculty, recent funding challenges have resulted in positions going unfilled resulting in larger class sizes and interruptions in class offerings. For students, curriculum disruptions have meant less individualized attention and later graduation dates.

Finally, Chairman Monson and members of the Committee, our colleges and universities are an important role in creating the rich tapestry that is North Dakota. They do this not only in the communities these campuses call home, but across the state. They educate and students from every corner of the state and return them home with a well-rounded, inclusive education that helps them see the possibilities of what we can be and the skills to help them achieve their dreams. The NDUS deserves our support. I therefore urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2003 and would be happy to answer any questions.