

Testimony on HB 1142

Chairman of the Senate Human Services Appropriations Committee

Chairwoman Lee

March 2021

Chairwoman, and members of the committee, my name is Cherie Roshau, I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1402 for these reasons:

On behalf of Killdeer Public School HOSA, I am testifying in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

As one who has more than forty years of education experience, it is not difficult to recognize the importance of engaging our students in the various forms of learning, one being a “hands-on” approach. HOSA provides an engaging approach to hands-on learning experiences, opening the door to a multitude health career possibilities. HOSA organization has been a source of exposure lighting the fire of interest for our developing future health careers. In 2019,, ninety-six percent of our members became CPR certified. We invited our coaches and teachers to take part in the training as well. The dedicated staff at the Killdeer Ambulance donated their time to provide HOSA members with CPR training.

Our HOSA members raised \$15,000.00 for Howling Wolf family when their son, Benny, contracted West Nile encephalitis. Benny Howling Wolf (aged four) was hospitalized for over a month in Fargo, ND and is now on his road to recovery with his team of physical therapists and doctors in Bismarck, ND. Eight Killdeer Public School HOSA members qualified the 2018 HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas; several Killdeer HOSA members became certified CNA and EMT and are working in nursing home and are working with the local ambulance; the Killdeer Public School HOSA sponsored a fund-raising event to help our principal’s son who was born with “transposition of the great vessels”. He was flown to Bismarck and then to Mayo Clinic. Our HOSA group raised \$7,000.00 for the “Krew Kleeman Medical Benefit”; Killdeer Public School HOSA sponsored several blood drives in which they were required to make phone calls to set up appointments, make arrangements with the school for the event and provide snacks for those donating blood. Note from United Blood Services: “The Killdeer HOSA group recruited 47 community heroes and of that number 36 were eligible to donate, which provided 45 products. A tremendous effort put forth by our future medical professionals and leaders of tomorrow! So much in fact that there were 28 new first-time donors.” Camille Jones, Donor Recruiter United Blood Services; the Killdeer HOSA provided/sponsored a “taping” training seminar for coaches and athletes presented by CHI St. Joseph’s Sports Medicine; the Killdeer High School HOSA members sponsored a visit from the Valley Med Flight which landed on the practice field by the school. Elementary students and HOSA members visited with crew including the pilot, flight nurse, and medical technician, along with

employees from the Killdeer Ambulance; Killdeer High School HOSA member, Chelsea Morlock won the Pin Design Contest for the state of North Dakota. The pin was used at the International Leadership Conference; Killdeer High School HOSA member Keia Holding Eagle designed the winning state HOSA Conference t-shirt.

This a short rendition of the accomplishments achieved by the HOSA Killdeer Public School membership. The question that I place before you is this, “if a small group of young people in western North Dakota are able to impact the world of health careers, what would happen if more schools, more education, more advisors and more financial support were afforded the possibilities?” Could we close the gap and address health care workforce shortages through our students; the future of quality health care professionals.

AHEC has afforded the Killdeer HOSA group with financial and educational opportunities. Our rural North Dakota communities seem to spark health care interest through academics as well as the platform of volunteerism.

Through my role as a HOSA advisor, I have witnessed the promotion of teamwork and community service; encouraging health care education; and lighting the fire of imagination instilling a love of health care learning. None of this would be possible without the collaboration with ND AHEC.

In closing, if we as North Dakota citizens expect quality health care service available to all, it is essential that we invest in the education process at all age levels. With the “collision” force that the corona virus has impacted our lives...every day...every person, we must recognize the education and critical ultimatum for more health care individuals. The North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers are incredibly vital in “growing North Dakota’s own” health care personal . We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

I urge a “Do Pass” on House Bill 1142, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherie Roshau
Killdeer HOSA Advisor
Retired