



**HB 1033**

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Christopher Scott, North Dakota Student Association

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Chair Nathe and Members of the Committee: My name is Christopher Scott, I am current President of the North Dakota Student Association, and I am writing this to express support for HB 1033, which allocates monies to the North Dakota Challenge Grant

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy! Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy!

Late last year, the NDSA passed a resolution [NDSA-07-2223](#), expressing its official support for this particular bill, which was then coming out of the North Dakota Interim Committee for Higher Education. This particular grant, since its inception last decade, has invested millions of dollars' worth of scholarships, and investments in research, technology and education and has provided countless thousands of students access to more affordable education.

In addition, this grant is a very powerful indispensable tool for universities when attracting donors, because of the matching dollars the state provides when private donors do donate! This grant creates a positive cycle where donors donate money for scholarships, and the state contributes funds to that institution which causes more donors to donate more money and the process repeats! For this upcoming biennium, it is proposed that the Challenge Grant to be raised to 24 million dollars, allocating 4 million dollars to NDSU and UND; 2 million for Minot State,

VCSU and BSC and the UND School of Medicine; 1.5 million to Mayville, VCSU and DSU; and finally, 1 million dollars each to WSC, LRSC, and DCB. And so in writing, I would like to express the NDSA's support for this bill and any subsequent proposals that increase the amounts currently allocated to the Challenge Grant, and oppose and decreases! Additionally, as a result of last session, the NDSA would also like to express that it opposes any amendments that attach partisan issues to the ND Challenge Grant and Higher Education! Please reach out to me if any of you have any questions!