

NDSU

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

HB 1379

February 8, 2023

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Chair Vigesaa and Members of the Committee: My name is Seth Lumley, and I am the Executive Commissioner of Legislative Affairs for North Dakota State University's Student Government. I would like to provide testimony in support of HB 1379 and to present the perspective of NDSU students on HB 1379.

NDSU Student Government is an organization of students at NDSU elected and appointed to represent the interests of the NDSU student body both externally at places like the capitol and internally through our student senate. We are comprised of members from all academic colleges at North Dakota State University, ensuring students from all majors and backgrounds have a voice. Our mission is to leave the university better than we arrived through ensuring that student voices are heard both on campus and at the legislature.

As an R1 research institution, research plays a central role in the success of NDSU and its students. For many of our students, especially graduate students, research presents an opportunity to actively participate in and learn about the most important sectors of our economy. As recently as last year, one of these research projects led to a new potato variety developed by a NDSU faculty being approved for McDonald's French fries. These opportunities ensure our students are better prepared to enter their careers following graduation, leading to better economic outcomes for all. In short, I urge you to support HB 1379 to continue driving economic growth while providing opportunities for our future leaders.