

NDSU

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

HB 1030

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Chairman Heinert 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 am here in support of HB 1030 and to bring the perspective of NDSU students on HB 1030.

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 to ensure students from all majors and backgrounds have a voice. Our mission is to leave the university better than we arrived through ensuring that student perspectives are heard both on campus and here at the legislature.

With the rising costs of college across the country, North Dakota has remained an optimal state for students to come and receive an education for a relatively low price. Some of the factors playing into this low cost are the abundance of scholarships and access to student loan repayment programs, both of which this bill directly benefits. Extending the skilled workforce student loan repayment program and skilled workforce scholarship program both provide enticing incentives for students to go to college and ultimately stay in North Dakota. Additionally, the other amendments made to these sections of the North Dakota Century Code, such as the elimination of the stipulation that individuals who receive funds from the skilled workforce scholarship program are ineligible for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program, advance student interests. In closing, I urge you to support HB 1030 as it will increase access to students wanting to attend college and ultimately stay in North Dakota. Thank you Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee.