



Rod Flanigan, Ph.D., President

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HB1241

House Education Committee

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Rod L. Flanigan, Ph.D., President of North Dakota State College of Science
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Chair Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Rod Flanigan and I serve as the President of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I write this letter today on behalf of NCSCS, our students (both current and prospective), faculty, and staff to provide written testimony in support of HB1241.

As written, HB1241 would allow the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to distribute funds to any/all of the 11 higher education institutions throughout the state for the purpose of building, growing, and developing innovative workforce academic programs, initiatives, and partnerships. While I am in favor of this bill, I believe it would be beneficial if language is adopted defining how the funds would be distributed to the various state institutions. By adding such language to Section 2 of HB1241, it will provide both equity and clarity for how the funds are intended to be used and distributed.

If passed, this bill would provide much needed funding to NDSCS allowing us to develop some of the innovative programs that we have wanted to build but have been unable to due to lack of funding. As most of you may know, NDSCS is facing a \$4,001,780 funding shortfall for the 2023-2025 biennium, and a \$1,428,592 shortfall if the 96% 'Hold Harmless' is passed. This sort of funding shortfall really limits what we can do for our academic programs and departments. Funding provided through HB1241 would allow us to grow and build some very important programs. Programs that are in discussion at NDSCS include: Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician (both automotive and construction equipment), Radiology Technician, Virtual Reality/Mixed Reality Technician, Aviation Maintenance Technician (A & P), and several others. We believe this not only helps build enrollment at NDSCS, but also helps fill the pipeline of very talented and skilled workforce in much needed positions throughout the state.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1241. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of higher education throughout the state of North Dakota!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rod Flanigan', is written over a red scribble.

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D.
President, NDSCS

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North Dakota State College of Science