

HB1398

House Education

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Chair Heinert and Committee Members: My name is Mark Hagerott, and I am the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System. I'd like to provide this written testimony in support of House Bill 1398, as the NDUS and its institutions have interest in digital literacy to be extended through public education.

As this committee and the greater legislature certainly understands, cyber security is becoming an increasingly common concern. Numerous workforce and higher education studies have shown the growing need for technical skills related to computer science and cyber security in more and more positions, as both have become instrumental for a majority of jobs throughout business and industry.

The university system supports this bill, which would provide training to our K-12 system and create opportunities for our elementary and secondary students to equip themselves with the digital skillsets that will be demanded of them upon graduation and entry into the workforce. This proposal complements the State Board of Higher Education's expectation of a digital literacy component as a general education requirement of NDUS graduates.

The university system's Dakota Digital Academy initiative has already found success in offering digital content such as this to our state's post-secondary institutions. I believe such a mechanism could be useful for the development and delivery of related digital content in the future at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels.

This concludes my testimony for HB1398, and I will stand for questions from the committee.

Thank you.