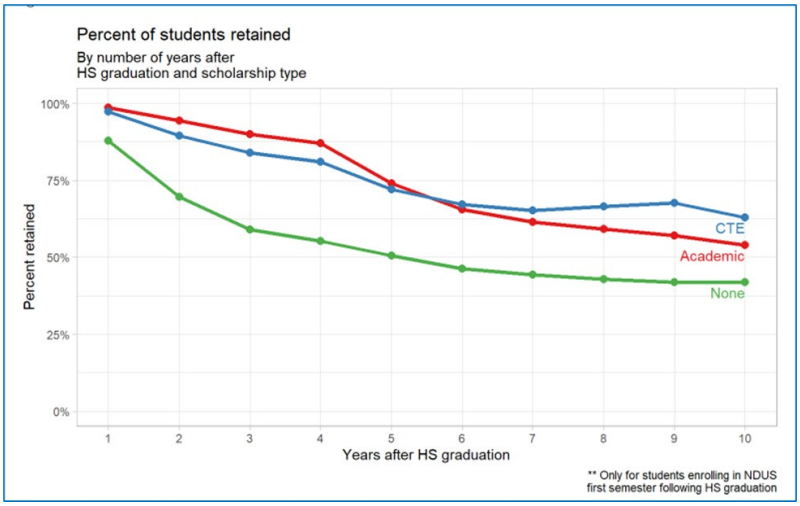
NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
ACCESS. INNOVATION. EXCELLENCE.

HB1451

House Education Committee
January 31, 2023

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS
701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Good afternoon, Chair Heinert, and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil, and I serve as the Financial Aid Director for the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today to provide information in support of HB1451 which increases the ND Academic, Career and Technical Education and ND Scholarship amounts.

The ND University System (NDUS) administers the Academic, Career and Technical Education (CTE) and ND Scholarships for students enrolled at qualifying institutions of higher education within the state. Current statute provides a $6,000 award that may be used toward post-secondary enrollment at the state's accredited public, private or tribal institutions, including accredited career schools. Students earn the scholarship in high school by taking challenging coursework and attaining minimum grades, including an overall GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0. Awards are issued at a rate of $750 per semester or $500 per quarter or clock hour term. Approximately 23% of high school seniors qualify for the scholarship, and 89% of those awarded receive at least one disbursement of the scholarship. HB1451 increases the award beginning in 2023 to $10,000, paid at a rate of $1,250 per semester or $833 per quarter or clock hour term. The estimated 2023-25 cost of this change is $5.554 million, for which an appropriation is included in section 2.

The ND Academic, CTE and ND Scholarships have proven to be successful at retaining individuals in the state. Up to 10 years following high school graduation, scholarship recipients are retained in North Dakota for either work or post-secondary education at a higher rate than those not receiving a scholarship. The increased award amount will help students to continue accessing an affordable education within North Dakota. I request a do pass on HB1451 and will stand for questions.