HB 1451

Good afternoon, Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, my name is Mitch Ostlie, Representative D12 Jamestown.

I am here to introduce HB 1451. This bill is to increase the existing North Dakota Scholarship from $6,000 to $10,000.

While visiting with some high school counselors and school administrators this past summer about some of the new potential requirements of this scholarship, I asked if anyone had ever asked about increasing this amount. To their knowledge, this had not been addressed. It has not changed since its inception in 2009.

I subsequently had conversations with DPI and Higher Ed regarding the increased cost of attendance during this period of time. The information I received from those conversation is the justification I used in requesting the increased amount to $10,000. This amount is pretty much just keeping up with that increased cost of attendance.

I want to thank you for your time, and I appreciate your consideration for an increase in the amount to this valuable scholarship program.

I will stand for any questions.