

Eric J. Murphy
Representative District 43
Testimony on HB1531

Thank Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, my name is Eric James Murphy, representing District 43 in the House.

I am expressing my concern as well as concerns of constituents at the University of North Dakota and in my district who have reached out to me concerning HB1531. This proposed legislation will have an impact on the ability to continue to create a campus at UND that is wide spectrum of diversity. Over the years, UND has sought ways to reduce barriers that prevent impede the mission of educating all students. One vital mechanism for this effort are mechanisms to reduce barriers preventing a student's path to a college education, for which affordability is one of the largest barriers.

To enhance a path to academic success and remove a key barrier to attendance, UND uses both waivers and scholarships targeted to attract students who add to the diversity of the campus environment. Without these scholarships and need-based aid, many of these students would be unable to attend UND.

Some information requested from UND to highlight these programs:

Total Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver:

- Undergraduate students: annual award \$1.2M to 182 students. The Diversity Scholars have a high academic performance such as enrolling in more credits, completion of more credits, and have a greater GPA than students of color not receiving the waiver.
- Law students: annual award \$114,000 to 17 students.

Total scholarship programs funded by UND, Alumni, or grant programs:

- There are 26 scholarship programs (with annual payouts of \$416K) where ethnicity is the primary or preferred awarding requirement.
- UND's INMED program offers scholarship to students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native which are not included in the 26 scholarship programs listed above.
- Pride Scholarship requires students to provide an essay of how they have demonstrated a commitment to the LGBTQ+ community and is awarded to one or more incoming freshman students who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community or students who are ally of the community. If no incoming students apply, the scholarship may be awarded to a current UND student who meets the same criteria.

These are some of the programs at UND that would be negatively impacted by HB1531. On behalf of my constituents and myself, I recommend a do not pass on HB1531.