

Monroe, Beverley

From: Greywater, Brigitte <brigitte.greywater@vcsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:13 PM
To: NDLA, H NAT
Cc: Johnson, Lisa; Greywater, Sheldon; LaFramboise, Kelly
Subject: HB 1531

Good Afternoon,

Upon reading the amendments to HB 1531, I am writing in opposition as this affects many, but I will specifically write regarding our Native American students. I served as the Director of Counseling/Head Volleyball Coach for Lake Region State College and I currently serve as head volleyball coach at Valley City State University.

All college campuses within the NDUS have a reservation with 120 miles of their institution. We have tribal two year colleges with some four year bachelor degree opportunities for students. Dependent on the tribal college status, they may or may not accept federal student loans due to current default rates. These students who qualify for federal student loans, but potentially not federal grant aid need additional assistance to continue their education rather than only paying out of pocket or with private loans. The ND Indian Scholarship is a way to provide additional assistance as well as cultural diversity waivers/scholarship on independent NDUS campuses.

As we continue to bridge the relationships between federal and sovereign nations (tribal reservations), access to education will provide the bridge needed. Without these waivers and scholarships, we will see a decrease in Native American students pursuing post-secondary education.

Thank you,

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