



SB 2032

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Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee: My name is Jason Fincel and I am the Chief Administrator of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to you on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill No. 2032.

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy. Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy.

The North Dakota Student Association serves as a means for students to speak as a unified and collective body on matters that pertain to them. In pursuit of that objective, the NDSA passed a resolution on Saturday, November 5th, 2022, NDSA-09-2223: A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 23-25 Biennium. One of the priorities that are enumerated by the resolution is the increase of access to financial aid for NDUS students. Moreover, the North Dakota Student Association passed NDSA-08-2223: A Resolution in Support of NDUS Scholarships on Saturday, November 5th, 2022. This resolution states that the NDSA recognizes how scholarships and grants significantly eases the financial burden of students seeking a quality education. Further, the NDSA supports financial aid for all NDUS students, including paraprofessionals, a demographic specifically addressed by Senate Bill No. 2032. Finally, NDSA also passed NDSA-12-2223: A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher Education Budget

Allocation for the 23-25 Biennium on Saturday, January 21st, 2023. This resolution was based on the notion that NDSA supports the increased ability of NDUS students to have access to a competitive, affordable and valuable higher education degree which will increase the quality of the workforce of the state of North Dakota.

Senate Bill No. 2032 provides funding for the financial support of NDUS students seeking to become qualified teachers. Given increasing inflation and the potential of increased tuition costs, scholarships for students are essential for many to afford a higher education degree. Senate Bill No. 2032 is a significant step in support of North Dakota students that will increase the quality and effectiveness of the workforce in North Dakota and throughout the country. This bill is in alignment with the goals of the NDSA and the best interest of the students for which NDSA advocates for. On behalf of the North Dakota Student Association, I urge the committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2032.