

## **HB 2033**

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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My name is Jason Fincel, and I am the Chief Administrator of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to you to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2033.

By creating a student loan forgiveness program for teachers, the state of North Dakota incentivizes students pursuing careers in teaching to consider employment within the state of North Dakota. Additionally, with a student loan forgiveness program in place, teachers who are struggling financially will be given a lifeline that will better enable them to remain in their teaching role in North Dakota and to provide a high-quality education to grade school students. Senate Bill No. 2033 has both short-term and long-term implications for the workforce of North Dakota. In the short-term, it will increase the number of teachers seeking employment or able to remain employed in North Dakota. In the long-term, it will result in a higher quantity of teachers in North Dakota which will, in turn, increase the quality of grade school education, which will then put young students who graduate high school in a better position to either pursue higher education or enter the workforce. In either case, this is a good first step in reversing the outflow of skilled labor from the state of North Dakota.

Senate Bill No. 2033 is not only in alignment with the best interests of teachers and students in both grade school and higher education, but also for North Dakota as a whole. I urge the committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on Senate Bill No. 2033.