

Dear Chairman Schauer and Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

My name is Shannon Meier, and I'm an alumni of Dickinson State University and the University of North Dakota. I am asking you for a **do not pass** recommendation for HB 1446.

First, as a former student and alumni, I found great value in the tenured faculty that I had the privilege to work with. Their depth of knowledge and command of the subject matter was unmatched compared to their freshly minted counterparts. Additionally, I found better academic guidance from the tenured faculty. For example, the new, not tenured US historian on the DSU campus in 2002 strongly recommended that I take no more than **12** credits a semester. With that guidance, my four-year degree would have taken me the better part of six years to complete. The person who caught this misguided advisement was the chair of the department who was not only tenured, but he had extensive history with the university. I am grateful for his correction to the advising.

Another note on advising must be noted here. I have only ever heard from Dickinson State University and the University of North Dakota's more senior, tenured faculty about CLEP tests. It so happened that at a high school senior's graduation party, I brought this up, and it saved her an additional year of college and approximately \$10,000 in tuition and fees. I question why a greater emphasis is not placed on what is best for students in academic advising instead of what is best for the university.

Second, I am an administrator in a small town that is situated close to Dickinson State University. Yet our students often do not consider Dickinson State University an option for them. There may be a few reasons for this. This bill does not, in my opinion, address the needs of the students. Instead, it places them in amore difficult position. When DSU saw mid-year exodus of most of their science staff, I wondered about the students. Sudden changes have adverse effects, and I know – as an educator – that decisions aren't made like that unless the environment has become incredibly unbearable. Removing the ability to redress life changing, unchecked decisions is dangers *at best*. It certainly is not what is best for students. In terms of why students – and now some staff vote with their feet – I wonder if it is because the vision has been lost on working on behalf of the students instead of such a dangerous focus on the faculty.

Finally, I question the emergency need for this type of bill. I am also wondering why Bismarck State College and Dickinson State University are the sole focus of this proposed legislation. If the proposal is that the legislation is needed for these two places of higher learning, why is it not needed for them all in North Dakota? Why are these two the target?

I sincerely hope that you will consider a do not pass recommendation for HB 1446.

Sincerely,

Shannon Meier