

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee on HB 1003
March 3, 2023

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Appropriations Committee members. My name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

I appear here today in support of the Professional Student Exchange Program, which is included in the University System budget. Our organization, which represents more than 3,150 cattle-ranching families, has long supported the Professional Student Exchange Program, as it provides specialized learning opportunities for North Dakota students at out-of-state veterinary schools.

North Dakota cattle producers regard their veterinarians as critical partners in their operations, helping them maintain a healthy herd and, ultimately, a profitable business.

We believe that the Professional Student Exchange Program helps entice students into this critical field, as it helps reduce at least some of their student-debt-load by providing tuition at reciprocity prices.

Many of the outstanding vets servicing our members' livestock operations are products of the Professional Student Exchange Program. We are hopeful that students will continue to have access to and benefit from this time-tested program, and, as such, we ask for your favorable consideration of this portion of the bill.