



SB 2197

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Chair Bekkedahl and Members of the Committee: My name is Christopher Scott. I am current President of the North Dakota Student Association and I am writing this in support of SB 2197. If passed, this bill would create an allocation for a scholarship that would be allocated to individuals working in the oil and gas industry.

The North Dakota Student Association was 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.

Last November, the NDSA passed a resolution on its legislative priorities [NDSA-09-2223](#) and a resolution supporting NDUS Scholarships [NDSA-08-2223](#). A few of the priorities enumerated in NDSA-09-2223 were to increase access to student financial aid and ensure students receive education preparing them to enter workforces in emerging technologies such as oil and gas. This bill accomplishes both of these goals.

Additionally, the oil and gas industry is one of the largest economic sectors for the state, bringing in billions in revenue for the state and thousands of people, which could address workforce issues. This scholarship would also help convince oil and gas workers to potentially settle in this state long term, so the NDSA supports SB 2197.