



**HB 1379**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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Chair Bekkedahl 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 and the North Dakota students it represents in support of House Bill No. 1379.

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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, [NDSA-09-2223](#): A Resolution in Support of NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 23-25 Biennium. One of the priorities is ensuring NDUS students receive education preparing them to enter workforces in emerging technologies. The NDSA also passed a resolution on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, [NDSA-12-2223](#): A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher Education Budget Allocation for the 23-25 Biennium, which stated that the NDSA General Assembly is in support of measures to increase the NDUS budget to increase the quality of education for students.

House Bill No. 1379 enables the creation of experiential learning opportunities for students, which advances both their academic and professional goals. Creating opportunities for experiential learning prepares students to enter the workforce and contribute to the economy. Creating experiential learning opportunities that are based in North Dakota also increases the likelihood of students pursuing a career within the state of North Dakota. Given the pivotal role that students play in the North Dakota economy, providing opportunities for students to grow academically and professionally is an investment in the long-term growth of North Dakota's economy. As a student, I have benefited many times from the emphasis that higher education places on experiential learning. Experiential learning bridges the gap between academic learning and professional skills. It gives students like me an entryway into the career that we are aiming for. This bill is in alignment with the goals of 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 HB No. 1379. Thank you for your time.