



HB 1030

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Chair Wobbema 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 in support of House Bill No. 1030.

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 5th, 2022, NDSA-09-2223: A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 23-25 Biennium. One of the priorities that are enumerated by the resolution is the increase of access to financial aid for NDUS students. Moreover, the NDSA passed NDSA-08-2223: A Resolution in Support of NDUS Scholarships on Saturday, November 5th, 2022. This resolution states that the NDSA recognizes how scholarships and grants significantly ease the financial burden of students seeking a quality education. Finally, the NDSA also passed NDSA-12-2223: A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher Education Budget Allocation for the 23-25 Biennium on Saturday, January 21st, 2023. This resolution was based on the notion that the NDSA supports the increased ability of NDUS students to have

access to a competitive, affordable and valuable higher education degree which will increase the quality of the workforce of the state of North Dakota.

House Bill No. 1030 provides funding for the financial support of NDUS students in a variety of academic programs. Given increasing inflation and lowered student enrollment rates, the potential for increased tuition costs have increased. As a result, scholarships for students will continue to be essential for many to afford a higher education degree. House Bill No. 1030 will help students achieve their academic potential and to pursue a career in their chosen field. House Bill No. 1030 invests in the future workforce of North Dakota and creates an incentive for students from around the region to attend an institution of higher learning in North Dakota and incentivizes them to begin their professional career in North Dakota. The financial best interest of higher education students is inextricably linked to the economic well-being of North Dakota and its workforce. This bill is in alignment with the goals of the NDSA and the best interest of the students for which the NDSA advocates for. On behalf of the North Dakota Student Association, I urge the committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on House Bill No. 1030.