

HB1331

House Education Committee

January 28, 2025

Chairman Heinert and House Education Committee Members:

My name is Alisa Mitskog, I represent District 25 including the North Dakota State College of Science.

HB 1331 is a simple bill that would *give NDSCS authorization* to proceed with a turf project. The current NDSCS football field is a shared grass field with the Wahpeton High School football team.

A few of the reasons why turf is needed for the field:

- Maintenance of the existing field can be challenging during wet and rainy fall seasons leaving it difficult to play on.
- Women's soccer will be added as a new sport beginning in the fall of 2025. This new artificial turf playing surface will be highly beneficial to this team.
- The new playing surface will also allow NDSCS to offer more intramural sports and activities for all students to use and enjoy.
- This would be the only turf playing surface in SE North Dakota

The project will be paid for with *local dollars* including donations and revenue from dining services. **No** general fund or appropriated dollars will be used for the project.

The reason for the emergency clause is to expedite the project so the turf will be ready for the 2025 fall sports season.

This is an important project for NDSCS and the Wahpeton community and I respectfully ask for your support.

The NDSCS Athletic Director, Reggie Jackson is here today and can answer any additional questions.

Thank you.