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Members of the House Education Committee:

The following testimony is in regards to **HB1533**, which would include an addition of ½ unit (credit) of financial literacy to high school graduation requirements. As currently written, I would oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- **Graduation Requirements Impact on Elective Courses** – As additional requirements are added onto the high school graduation requirements, it does have a negative impact on elective courses, including all of our course offerings within Career & Technical Education. The more units that are required to be completed by students, the less time they have within the school day to choose the courses that align with their career interests.
- **Graduation Requirements Impact on Staffing** – The incorporation of additional units within the high school graduation requirements would result in each school district ensuring that they have the necessary certified staff to deliver this course to every student at some point in their high school education. The investment in ensuring those instructors are on staff, and the classroom space dedicated to holding that class again does have an inverse impact on existing programs and staffing levels, specifically in the elective areas.
- **Existing Financial Literacy Expectations** – NDCC 15.1-21-21 outlines that “each school district shall ensure that its curriculum for either economics (required for graduation already) includes the exposure of students to concepts of personal finance...” A question for the committee might be whether HB1533 replaces this section of NDCC or is in addition.

However, I concur with the bill sponsors on the importance of Financial Literacy concepts and elevating their importance for students. Therefore, I would encourage the committee to consider the following amendment.

- **Remove Section (i) from HB1533 that requires ½ unit of Financial Literacy as a graduation requirement** - However, allow a student that chooses to complete ½ unit of Financial Literacy the option to utilize this to fulfill the requirements of subdivisions b, d, or f. This follows the precedent of being able to choose to utilize 1 unit of computer science to meet the graduation requirements for science (subdivision c)

Sincerely,

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