

## Testimony on challenge grants for UJ and UM

Senator Terry Wanzek

- The University of Jamestown past Presidents, Dr. James Walker, Dr. Robert S Badal, along with current President Dr. Polly Peterson have asked only one thing of me in all the years I represented District 29, Jamestown in the ND Senate. TREAT OUR STUDENTS FAIRLY! They understand, as a private institution they do not expect to receive public funds paid directly to benefit their college! But what I've heard is, do not forget our UJ students, ND citizens, and their needs to be able to become prepared to join the workforce in ND.
- These students are ND Citizens who, along with their parents are paying public taxes into ND's Government while also paying for their education with private dollars. I believe just because they have chosen a private school education, their choice as ND tax paying citizens, should not be denied an opportunity for challenge grant scholarships.
- It's my understanding that the challenge grants offered by the ND taxpayers are matching grants intended for the advancement of academics. The amendments as prepared before you, to UJ and UM students are exclusively for scholarships, directly benefiting students who are advancing their academic knowledge. The amendment will directly benefit students rather than going to the private institution to be subject to their discretion.
- Once again, the challenge grants to these private students will create a fair opportunity between public and private students. The challenge grants are meant to be providing assistance to all our students in achieving an advancement of their academic capabilities. This helps them to be prepared to meet the challenges of our workforce needs in ND. For example, UJ has an outstanding Nursing program, an engineering and business program etc.. These private school students are contributing to one of our priority challenges in ND, workforce needs in ND.
- In closing, all of our students in ND, public and private, in pursuit of academic advancement, should be afforded the opportunity to compete for these private dollars with public matching challenge funds and contribute to the much needed work force in ND. Let's be fair to all of our young students!!