



HB 1437

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Chair Beard and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill and I am Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here today in opposition of HB 1437.

The North Dakota Student Association is 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 North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

This year, the NDSA passed [NDSA-18-2425](#) - A Resolution in Opposition to HB 1437: The Prohibition of Tenure for Faculty at Two-Year Colleges. Although this bill has been amended to remove any prohibition of tenure, it is the position of the NDSA that policies regarding tenure should be left up to the individual institutions and the State Board of Higher Education's authority to manage these institutions and provide the highest quality of education for students.

Any bill that would dictate the policy for tenure in the NDUS sets the troubling precedent that the legislature would, in later sessions, continue to restrict tenure. The SBHE, by and large, aligns with the legislature ideologically on most issues regarding higher education. The legislature should be collaborating with the SBHE to determine what policies the SBHE should create for the NDUS rather than the legislature unilaterally determining policy with legislation; that is not the role of the legislature in higher education.

Understanding that any bill passed to restrict the SBHE and NDUS's ability to determine their own policies on tenure is an infringement on the SBHE's authority to manage the 11 NDUS institutions, the NDSA asks that this committee gives HB 1437 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.