

2025 SB 2034

Senate Education Committee

Senator Todd Beard, Chairman

January 14, 2025

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Leslie Wietstock, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Dickinson State University (DSU). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2034. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Senate Bill 2034 addresses what some of us fondly refer to as the success penalty. As universities increase the number of credit hours produced, and certain thresholds are met, the Credit Completion Factor that is multiplied by the Weighted Student Credit Hour Base Factor is reduced.

In the case of DSU, the 60,000 Completed Student Credit Hours threshold was surpassed. The result of this was a reduction in the Credit Completion Factor from 1.5 to 1.4.

The adjustment to the Credit Completion Factor will result in a negative financial impact to DSU, as the amount of general fund appropriated from the State will decrease by \$681,676, from the amount received for the 2023-2025 biennium. The other result of this change is that DSU will not receive roughly \$893,899 that it would have received in additional funding had there been no change in the Completion Factor. A worksheet demonstrating this impact is attached to this testimony.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and would stand for any questions that the committee may have.