



**SB 2303**

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Sammi Weber, North Dakota Student Association

Sammi.Weber@und.edu

Chair Beard and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sammi Weber, and I am the President of the North Dakota Student Association. I am writing to express my support for SB 2303.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System (NDUS), and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

The education savings account proposed by this bill will ultimately benefit North Dakota higher education students by better preparing them with stronger academic resources and reducing some of the financial burden on families. By allowing more flexibility in how they can allocate their educational savings, parents and guardians can ensure that their children have access to innovative learning environments, specialized tutoring, and advanced education programs. This bill will allow parents and guardians to direct educational funds to where they are necessary, so their students have an education fit to their needs. Stronger academic preparation for primary and secondary students will increase the likelihood of success in higher education should students decide to pursue it.

Senate Bill 2303 will provide families with the opportunity to prepare for the future by saving for children's higher education. With the education savings account available in primary and secondary school, future higher education students will be in a better financial position to invest in themselves. As a university student that has experienced the difficulties of financial strain on myself and my family, I believe that Senate Bill 2303 is a strong step in the direction of higher education affordability. The educational savings account program will assist the success of students who hope to contribute to North Dakota's workforce and community.

On behalf of the NDSA, I respectfully ask the committee for a DO PASS recommendation on Senate Bill 2303.