

2015 HOUSE EDUCATION

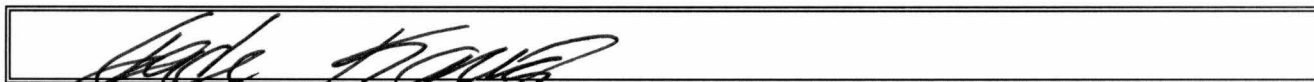
HCR 3053

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HCR 3053
3/11/2015
24693

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Directing the Legislative Management to study American Indian student support and service programs at all institutions of higher education in the state, including recruitment and retention efforts, admissions standards, ancillary programs, cultural sensitivity training, financial aid programs, and all current funding and support providing services to American Indian students.

Attachment # 1-2

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: Opened the hearing on HCR 3053.

Representative Kylie Oversen: District 42: (1:00- 3:52) Introduced HCR 3053 and amendments. (See Attachment # 1 & 2).

Rep Schreiber Beck: I taught at an American Indian school for a few years and my concern is doing the studies is one thing but getting that particular population to the campus is another. In the study what do you think the results of the study might be? I think there have been a lot of studies done, a lot of articles written, a lot of papers done ETC. Would this study be holistic and take those into consideration or are you revamping a whole new study?

Representative Oversen: In my conversations with some of the staff members that work with these programs they have in the past and hope to continue focusing on recruiting high school students by means of going to the reservations and talking to the high school students, bringing them to campus so they get a feel for what a campus is like and what it would be like to attend that school. Unfortunately often times my recollection is that the funding for some of those programs hasn't continued or they have been stretched too thin so they had to cut off some of those programs. My intention with the study is yes that it would be holistic and look at both what we have done in the past at our institutions be in UND or Minot State, all of our schools and then look at the schools that don't have those same support systems. In reading the letter from the Minot state director she indicates that

she is a staff of one. She is the entire center by herself and that is a lot of weight on person and UND and I think we have a staff of probably closer to ten individuals supporting our American Indian students. So I think the study should look at what different programs, we have look at national best practices, regional best practices and hope to incorporate more of them into our institutions. The end results may or may not be legislation it may be directed at the State Board of Higher Education and directing them to take action. The results of any study are up to that interim committee and what they see is best.

Rep Schreiber Beck: In my educational background the concepts are formed by about fourth or fifth grade so I am wondering what we are doing at the colleges and universities is after the fact and that if we are going to impact anyone it is going to be at a much earlier age. That is why I hedge a little bit on the study, because we kind of know what we are doing but that doesn't seem to be too effective and I don't think money is the answer I think it is some conception development and parental or grandparent guidance.

Representative Oversen: I am a big supporter of education starting as early as it can and I having support for those students who need it most. The direction of the study was just at the programs we have at our higher education institutions. I know the program that we do have a UND has been successful and retention efforts for students but they don't have enough resources and that isn't just financial. I think having programs like that is very vital at the higher education level. In my interaction with those groups they create a sense of community among the students that are there and that is really important for those students who came from really close knit communities to be around others when they get to the campus. I don't disagree with you if the committee wishes to expand the scope of the study to look at other things beyond higher education that would be at your discretion.

Chairman Nathe: In your amendment you have Alaska natives, why is that included?

Representative Oversen: That was actually a recommendation from the North Dakota University System in what they understood to be the best terminology for what we were looking at for recruitment efforts.

Rep Hunskor: Do you have any idea how many Native American students are at colleges other than UND?

Representative Oversen: I might have the number in my report somewhere but I would have to dig that up. I could get back to you.

Rep Rohr: I had a nursing colleague who was Native American and she told me once that the Native American populations are the most studied population in North America. Did you confer with our Indian Commissioner about the intent of your resolution and was he in favor of this?

Representative Oversen: I did not confer with him because it originated in conversations at UND, because those individuals working with those programs have seen that they do have really good programs but not all of our schools have those same programs and don't have access to the same resources. I guess they were speaking on behalf of all of the

institutions that they hope we could spread that across everybody so that students wishing to attend any of the institutions would have that support system. It was focus specifically on American Indian students, because that is the largest minority population that we have at our institutions and North Dakota.

Rep Rohr: That's why I was wondering about his input, because he is looking out for the population across North Dakota.

Rep B. Koppelman: I agree with Rep Schreiber Beck was trying to get at as far as the outreach to those adults or near adults to bring them into college and attending college although some things could be feel good and nature to say we did something. A lot of these would be college students would be under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We have some state schools as far as K-12 that serve that population that come off the reservation to attend school. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to have a resolution suggesting to the federal government and others for them to work on that. It doesn't seem to me that we can institute the change like that because it is out of our jurisdiction.

Representative Oversen: I agree we should start earlier but the focus of the study is specifically at higher education because we do have existing programs and this came from conversations with individuals in those programs who have seen success but hopes to expand. Often times it may be too late but you could recruit students who came from situations of poverty and hardship or were able to work through higher education with the necessary support and services but unless we are improving or expanding those services more students won't be able to access that and have the same success in higher education. I wish we could do more at a local and younger level. We have many resolutions and studies looking at that as well.

Rep B. Koppelman: Do you believe this would increase or decrease the cost of Higher Education?

Representative Oversen: It could be. My intention isn't to overall increase the costs of Higher Education but if we need more services then that certainly could be the outcome.

Rep Hunsakor: Other colleges than UND Fargo, as there been any conversation with them as far as the need for something like this and the problems that they have, if any, in dealing with the Native American kids at their schools? What is the need out there as far as those colleges?

Representative Oversen: The knowledge that I have of larger conversations is a group called HERO, which is a task force of sorts under the university system and they have been having a continuing conversations without what supports we have for American Indian students I don't think there is anyone in the audience who could speak to that. I believe at least the UND and Minot representatives that I have included here are a part of that group and part of the reason I brought the study forward. I can get more information on that group for you.

Chairman Nathe: Any other support? Any opposition HCR 3053 Closed the hearing on HCR 3053.

Rep B. Koppelman: Moved a Do Not Pass.

Rep Rohr: Seconded.

Motion Withdrawn

Rep Kelsh: I move a to Adopt Amendments to insert "Alaska Natives" (See Attachment #2).

Rep Mock: Second

Rep Kelsh: The native Alaskans are not Native Americans.

Rep B. Koppelman: We are talking about the term Indians not Native American verses Alaskan Natives and I think they are all governed under BIA (Bureau Indian Affairs) so that would suggest that they are not included if they are not Indian so I think its fine.

Motion to Adopt Amendment.

Motion made by Representative Kelsh.

Seconded by Representative Mock.

Total yes 6. No 6. Absent 1.

Motion Failed.

Rep B. Koppelman: Moved Do Not Pass on HCR 3053.

Rep Rohr: Seconded.

Rep Mock: I am going to resist the motion but the one thing about it is first of all it is a study. It gives us the option to consider studying it. I see no harm in putting this into consideration especially since the Universities request it. Heres my biggest reason; one we know that eight percent of the population is Native American. We know that we have targeted programs both state local federally funded programs to assist students of minority populations. What I see in this study, the study of effectiveness of those programs and whether or not they are doing their job, its and efficiency study. As Representative Oversen said, sure in some cases maybe there has to be. Maybe the University of North Dakota has to do a different type of training considering the high number of minority students that are on the campus. Maybe it shows that they are not spending the money where they should be and they should be spending it somewhere else. But without that information how are you able to adequately address the needs of the students on those campuses and address the particular needs of these students. It's a study I am not going to invest any political capital in this but I certainly don't see the harm in giving the University System and Legislative Management the opportunity. I am going to vote against the Do Not Pass. I hope that that is defeated but throw it out there lets get some more information, if its studied great but I really see the advantages if it were to be considered and how we can

already provided by federal grants. I think there is a lot of unattended benefits that we may not be looking at and I think it would serve us good by passing this resolution.

Rep Schreiber Beck: What kind of funding is there? It was not brought up was what kind of dollars in funding is spending at any of the university either federal or state through the Board of Higher Education?

Chairman Nathe: Legislative management would decide how they want to study it. They would then assign us to a committee and then that committee chairman can decide who they want to bring in from the schools.

Rep Schreiber Beck: How much money is currently being allotted through the Board of Higher Ed right now and our federal government in this? When you bring up that it is an efficiency study we don't have any of those figures to even base, I need the facts.

Rep D. Johnson: The language says will this include the four tribal colleges.

Rep B. Koppelman: The University System has a lot of latitude in how they set their budgets and how they prioritize and things of that nature when they bring it to the legislature and to put this in a concurrent resolution, say alright we want you the management to study this. They institute most of these programs. They have instituted at UND where they instituted some sort of sensitivity training vice president or some other staff member that did that after some circumstances arose. They act in these areas already so they could just as well study this within their system and it would not have to be a legislative study from my point of view. So for them to come in and push and say I hope you guys study this I think that is kind of interesting.

Motion for Do Not Pass and Place On Consent Calendar.

Motion made by Representative Koppelman.

Seconded by Representative Rohr.

Total yes 7. No 5. Absent 1.

Motion Passes.

Floor assignment Representative Koppelman.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3053

Page 1, line 15, after "Indians" insert "and Alaska Natives"

Page 1, line 17, after the semicolon insert: "and

WHEREAS, the long-impooverished tribal reservation communities of the state continue to experience communitywide poverty along with gaping disparities in quality of life, health, and education; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the most effective way to impact and assist American Indian individuals and families out of poverty is by providing higher educational opportunities combined with academic and cultural support; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of American Indian students who attend higher education institutions plan to and do return to their home tribal communities following their graduation to improve the quality of life for fellow tribal members;"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-11-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3053**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.319.01001

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Kelsh Seconded By Rep. Mock

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe		✓	Rep. Hunskor	✓	
Vice Chairman Schatz		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. B. Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Looyesen		✓			
Rep. Meier		✓			
Rep. Olson	A				
Rep. Rohr		✓			
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

motion fails

Date: 3-11-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3053**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Koppelman Seconded By Rep. Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe	✓		Rep. Hunskor		✓
Vice Chairman Schatz	✓		Rep. Kelsh		✓
Rep. Dennis Johnson		✓	Rep. Mock		✓
Rep. B. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Looyen	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Olson	A				
Rep. Rohr	✓				
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke		✓			

Total (Yes) 7 No 5

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Koppelman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3053: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (7 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3053 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2015 TESTIMONY

HCR 3053

1
HCR 3053
3-11-15

**Testimony - House Concurrent Resolution 3053
House Education Committee
March 11, 2015**

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Education committee, my name is Kylie Oversen and I represent District 42 in Grand Forks. I am here to testify in support of HCR 3053 which is a legislative management study of American Indian student support and service programs at our institutions of higher education.

American Indian students have been and continue to be underrepresented on our campuses of higher education, both in North Dakota and across the country. Even when these students are able to attend our institutions, they are often faced with many challenges throughout their academic career. Programs that are designed to both recruit and retain American Indian students to our colleges and universities are vital to ensuring their academic success. Educating and training American Indian students will lead to better outcomes not only for those students, but also for their families, communities, and tribes. We know that many American Indian students return to their tribes and communities after receiving their education, to share their talents and skills with their families and neighbors, improving the overall quality of life.

During my time at the University of North Dakota, I have been fortunate to get to know and work with our American Indian students, faculty, and staff. They are a vibrant, hard-working, and inclusive community. These students do face a number of challenges in attending traditional higher education institutions. However, they are well served and supported by the American Indian Student Services program at UND. Unfortunately, not all of our eleven institutions have such a strong support program. Exploring what our campuses need to best support American Indian students is vital to ensuring these students do have access to evidence based, time tested programs.

North Dakota is well positioned to become a regional and national leader in changing the historically underrepresented classification of American Indian students. The needs are critical and the time is right to explore and strengthen these programs. The frontier state of North Dakota is abundantly rich in American Indian

culture and our continually growing American Indian population is where this work, to better support students of higher education, should begin.

I have attached a set of amendments for your consideration, at the recommendation of one of my campus partners. I have also included letters of support from the director of the Native American Center at Minot State University and from the president of the University of North Dakota.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I urge you to favorably consider HCR 3053 and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have.

March 11, 2015

Representative Kylie Oversen
House of Representatives
64th Legislative Assembly
Bismarck, North Dakota

Re: HCR 3053

Dear Representative Oversen:

The University of North Dakota (UND), as a member of the North Dakota University System (NDUS), serves the state, the country, and the world community through teaching, research, creative activities and service.

UND strives to provide the finest learning experience possible to students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. External assessment of success in meeting these goals is not only welcome, but essential to maintaining the desired quality of excellence expected of all individuals at the institution.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3053 directs Legislative Management to initiate a study of support and service programs for American Indian students at all institutions in the ND University System.

UND has multiple academic and professional programs specifically directed at student success for members of the American Indian community: e.g. in medicine, nursing, law, psychology, education, and a more general degree program in American Indian Studies.

In addition, American Indian Student Services (AISS) at UND provides "culturally appropriate student support services designed to enhance the academic and personal success of American Indian students attending UND". Activities included in AISS are recruitment, transitional support, retention, tutoring, study skills, advisement and ongoing encouragement.

HCR 3053 will assist UND in evaluating institutional efforts for promoting success of American Indian students in this under-represented population on the UND campus.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Kelley
President



Minot State UNIVERSITY

Our Place. Our Legacy. Our Vision.

Native American Cultural Center

March 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern

I am the Native American Center Director at Minot State University, working with Native American students coming to achieve degrees at MSU. Prior to that I was a teacher, manager, and director at the Burdick Job Corps Center in Minot. I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa who transferred to MSU in the 90s, after completing tribal college, where I obtained my Bachelors and Masters Degrees. In 2011 I became the NA Center Director.

As I write this letter of support for Resolution No. 3053, I am assisting a student with filling out scholarship applications for fall semester, coordinating a ride for a student to the emergency room (ongoing illness), and helping another pick classes for summer session. The reason I am doing all of these things simultaneously is because I am an office of one. The Native American/American Indian students I work with look to me for support, and their families rely on me to help get their student across the graduation stage. How does that happen? Recruitment and retention of the Native American/American Indian students.

Our Native American/American Indian students desperately need support from people on campus, state and national levels by means of having a place, financial aid, and cultural sensitivity. Our campus gives provides a place and a diversity waiver, and I provide the feeling of "home". If I can get them past freshman year, there's a better chance of success. There's so much more that we can do and provide if we had the means. The need is here but the means to do it all is not.

I ask that you consider this study which is the first step in providing what our Native American/American Indian students need to be successful in getting to college and completing. I speak from experience because at one time I was one of these students looking to find a place and student support at the University.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Annette Mennem

Native American Center Director

4

15.3119.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Oversen
March 10, 2015

#2
HCR 3053
3-11-15

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Renumber accordingly