

Thank you, Chairman Owens and good morning to members of the House Education Committee!

My name is Austen Schauer, Representative from West Fargo, District 13.

It is my privilege to introduce you to **House Bill 1430** which I view as an ***opportunity*** for our High School students to **excel** in ***BOTH*** **Academic** skills and **Technical** skills.

Over the years, we've developed a system in which students are expected to choose one or the other.

Those who take **academics** seriously and meet all the standards for the North Dakota Scholarship are then expected to be off to a four-year college with up to six thousand dollars and a ***go-get-em*** attitude from us!

Those who take **technology** seriously and meet all the standards for the North Dakota Scholarship are expected to be off to a two-year college with up to six thousand dollars and a ***go-get-em*** attitude from us!

But why can't students go for both?

Why can't we set a ***high bar*** that students can pursue and be rewarded when they reach it?

We know all about the world of college athletics. Only the most dedicated, skilled High School athletes have a chance at the next level.

For students who want to pursue **BOTH Academic** and **Technical** Scholarships, this is their sport.

They too must be dedicated as any High School athlete to succeed.

It's also what **businesses** want; smart, talented kids who have a well-rounded education.

These students will need to work hard, (and chances are), they will **WANT** to work in North Dakota. We have plenty of opportunities for them! Talk about a great investment?!

I would ask this committee to take a deep look at the value **House Bill 1430** would bring to our students, our business community, and our state by offering two tracks of educational scholarships.

Let's stand back and see who's up to the challenge and the opportunity!

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Education Committee members.

I am open to any questions you may have.