

SB2136

House Education Committee

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Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, NDUS

701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Chair Owens and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Brenda Zastoupil, and I serve as the Financial Aid Director of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here to provide testimony in support of SB2136. Section 3 and 4 of the bill:

- Introduce language that provides for the scholarship at accredited private career schools in ND; and
- Provide clarifying language of “program” completion rather than just degree completion; and
- Clarify that the award applies only to institutions with a “physical presence” in the state; and
- Provide the ability to define clock hour terms, convert clock hours to credit hours, and convert percentage-based grades to grade point average.

The NDUS administers the payment of the scholarship on behalf of qualifying students who attend accredited institutions of higher education within the state. Current statutory language provides for the scholarship if a student attends an accredited institution in the state, however, it also limits those institutions to semester and quarter-based schools. Further, the statute currently requires grade point average (GPA) and cumulative credits be maintained. This language prevents the award from being issued at accredited state career schools that operate under a clock-hour system and/or grade on a percentage basis. The NDUS receives a handful of inquiries each year from students to use the award at the accredited private career schools in the state, such as Lynnes Welding and Josef’s School of Hair Design.

SB2136 provides the opportunity for ND resident students to utilize the scholarship to further their education and attain their career goals. This concludes my testimony in support of SB2136, and I will stand for questions from the committee.