



To: Senate Education Committee
From: Shannon Full, President/CEO, FMWF Chamber of Commerce
Date: March 10, 2021
RE: **Support HB 1375**

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Shannon Full and I serve as the President of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce. I rise today in **support of HB 1375**. On behalf of our over 2,000 Chamber members, I urge your support for this legislation which has the potential to tremendously impact hundreds of students across our state. As you are all aware, institutions of higher education – especially in our state – are in a fierce battle for every single student. Undoubtedly, colleges across our greater mid-west region are actively recruiting our students and trying to pull them out of North Dakota.

For example, just across our boarder, Minnesota has been aggressive and innovative in not only attracting students from other states for higher education, but also retaining them. They have been offering Dual Credit courses completely free of cost to their students for years, enticing them to pursue in state education. Further, they continue to explore incentives to encourage enrollment in MN with two recent article headlines reading, “Gov. Tim Walz proposes automatic college acceptance for qualifying Minnesota high school seniors” and, “University of Minnesota makes tuition free for students from families making under \$50,000.”

HB 1375 is a strong step in the right direction for North Dakota, as it provides our colleges and universities with another tool to utilize as they work to retain as many of our high school students as possible. This legislation will serve as an enticing incentive encouraging students who enrolled in Dual Credit courses to stay in ND for their post-secondary education, and ultimately join our local workforce contributing to the economy. Additionally, it provides our higher education institutions with another tool in the recruitment of students that live just beyond our North Dakota boarders, with the important inclusion of students who graduated from high schools with districts that boarder us.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation which has the potential to save students and families money while retaining home-grown talent for our local workforce. I urge a do pass on HB 1375. I’m happy to stand for any questions the committee may have.

Shannon Full
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