

TESTIMONY ON HB 1430
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
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Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of HB 1430.

NDDPI supports the idea of providing opportunities for students, and we support the concept of the bill regarding awarding students for accomplishments achieved. Currently by law, a student that earns the Academic or CTE Scholarship is only allowed to use \$750 of the \$6000 scholarship allotment each semester, and for a student working towards a 4-year degree, the math works out perfectly for the student to be able to use their entire \$6000 scholarship allotment. However, if the student works towards a two-year degree or certificate with the intention of entering the workforce after those two years, they leave \$3000 of their scholarship allotment unused. The passage of HB 1430 would allow students in this situation to receive their entire scholarship allotment of \$6000 in pursuit of the educational program that best aligns to their career of choice.

Another challenge to students is that, in current law, a student may only receive the scholarship if he/she is attending college full time. This can serve as a barrier to non-traditional students who, for whatever reason, may not be able to attend college full-time. We have received inquiries at the office from college students in this type of situation. The passage of HB 1430 would remove this barrier and allow non-traditional students to be able to use the scholarship money if they attend college at least half-time.

As you know, there are a number of bills that have been introduced during the legislative session relating to the Academic and CTE Scholarship. As you consider each of these bills, please consider the opportunities that the Academic and CTE Scholarships provide for our students.

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.