



**HB 1503**

Senate Education Committee

March 22nd, 2021

2:30 PM

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, I currently serve as a Grassroots Engagement Director for Americans for Prosperity—North Dakota. Americans for Prosperity breaks down barriers to allow individuals to achieve their full potential. Freedom of expression is one of our major priorities—we believe that for someone to reach self-actualization they must be subject to equal rights under the law. House Bill 1503 protects the speech of students, organizations, and faculty who occupy our higher education system. This bill ensures our campuses continue fostering openness and diversity. I am respectfully asking this committee to give House Bill 1503 a DO PASS recommendation and further protect North Dakotan's First Amendment.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I have had the opportunity to live, learn, and work in our wonderful state. During my time at North Dakota State University, I was an active member of a collegiate political organization. Serving as a chapter President, I was responsible for magnifying the voice of like-minded students and members. While promoting personal ideology is important, it is essential that we continue to promote the debate of ideas.

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free”.

Former U.S. President, Ronald Reagan



Americans for Prosperity is not only a supporter of free expression but an advocate of education and life-long learning. House Bill 1503 further protects the rights of students and staff, while granting Universities the capability of implementing reasonable and constitutional restrictions. This bill promotes spontaneous free speech while protecting access to events featuring diverse opinions.

This bill is a pre-emptive step to protect our student's First Amendment rights. House Bill 1503 requires that students be treated equally and fairly, no matter which public university they attend. Higher education is teaching our next generation of leaders to think critically, evolve, and discover. Without civil discourse and challenges, our next generation of leaders may be ill-prepared.

Today, I respectfully ask that this committee protect speech for our next generation and give House Bill 1503 a favorable recommendation.

I will now stand for any questions.

Cale Dunwoody  
Grassroots Engagement Director  
Americans for Prosperity—North Dakota