

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
Chairman Jessica Bell
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Testimony of:

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HB 1137

Good morning. My name is Brenda Nagel and I have the honor of serving as the Vice President for Public Affairs at the University of Mary. Thank you for allowing me to say a few words today in support of the impact of this tax credit for the donors of the University of Mary.

The University of Mary is a non-profit, private, higher ed institution that relies heavily on the support of our donors. We are 3,800 students strong on our campus with approximately half of our students coming to us from out of state.

Many of our students come to Mary for their degree, become formed in the Benedictine values, and end up falling in love with our state and community of Bismarck-Mandan and become residents of North Dakota. These are the same student who end up filling the much-needed vacancies in jobs such as nursing, engineering, business, and teaching.

Each fiscal year, the University of Mary injects approximately \$63 million into the local economy. Our students residing in the area have an economic impact on the community with significant personal, recreational, and miscellaneous spending above and beyond tuition, books, and fees.

This tax credit allows the University of Mary to begin to cultivate the relationships of the smaller donors necessary to grow our overall donor population. The mission of annual giving, even for the smallest of donors who benefit from this tax credit, helps us to provide institutional scholarships for the very students previously mentioned and fund special projects on campus.

At Mary, many times, it is the tax credit that allows us to begin a conversation with a first-time donor who believes strongly in our mission but may have limited funds to be able to give.

The University of Mary will continue to offer a variety of ways for our friends to support our mission and this tax credit is an important aspect of that donor relationship with a lasting impact to our students and ultimately the state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.