

**NDSU**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**HB 1305**

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Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee: My name is Seth Lumley, and I am the Executive Commissioner of Legislative Affairs for North Dakota State University's Student Government. I would like to provide testimony in support of HB 1305 and to present the perspective of NDSU students on HB 1305.

NDSU Student Government is an organization of students at NDSU elected and appointed to represent the interests of the NDSU student body both externally at places like the capitol and internally through our student senate. We are comprised of members from all academic colleges at North Dakota State University, ensuring students from all majors and backgrounds have a voice. Our mission is to leave the university better than we arrived through ensuring that student voices are heard both on campus and at the legislature.

Diversifying the acceptable accomplishments of students to qualify for the North Dakota scholarship can only serve to enrich our institutions of higher education. Everyone is gifted in different ways, and these changes to the requirements for the North Dakota scholarship reflect this basic fact. Specifically, we strongly support the "Fine Arts" and ASVAB additions as they will further help students who are studying music or architecture and encourage more students from North Dakota to continue serving through ROTC programs respectively. Without scholarship opportunities, many students, myself included, would either be forced into a tremendous amount of additional debt or to work longer hours to make ends meet to the detriment of their studies. In short, I urge you to support HB 1305 to continue ensuring that higher education remains a place where students of different backgrounds and strengths can be given the opportunity to flourish. Thank you Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee.