



HB 1531

House Education Committee

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Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Lisa Johnson. I serve as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1531.

Each year, the colleges and universities of the NDUS process over 7,500 undergraduate applications for admission. The colleges and universities do not waive the application fee based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin. I am, however, aware of institutions hosting free application events, waiving the application fee as a part of their larger, coordinated recruitment and outreach efforts. It is important to know that the waiver of application fees is for all applicants during the specified period of time.

As for the bill's proposed language prohibiting an application waiver based on "diversity", the campuses attract a very diverse student body that also includes individuals of any age, sex, religion, marital status, political viewpoint, ability or disability, or military service connection.

At a time of some of the fiercest competition to attract and retain North Dakota students, HB 1531 would literally prevent institutions, without exception, from extending this benefit to some of the "diverse" populations that the bill's sponsors might expect to receive an application waiver.

For these reasons, the NDUS seeks the Committee's recommendation of "Do Not Pass" on HB 1531.