



Testimony for the 69th Legislative Assembly – House Education

February 17, 2025

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Bill: HB 1161

Chair Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Andy Armacost, and I serve as the President of the University of North Dakota. I am offering neutral testimony regarding HB 1161. While I oppose the original version of HB 1161, I appreciate the efforts of the bill's primary sponsor to develop an amended version of the bill for consideration.

As you will hear in testimony from UND Vice President for Finance and Operations Karla Mongeon-Stewart, the impact of the original bill on the University of North Dakota's budget and operations would be significant.

Unlike other state agencies, funding for higher education is not tied to specific FTE requirements. Rather, at institutions like UND, funding is provided on an outcome-based model relative to the institution's success in completed credit hours.

The changes suggested in the original bill contradict the already established Century Code, existing OMB guidance, and past Legislative intent. It would also restrict our ability to respond to enrollment fluctuations and force us to conduct business in a much less flexible, efficient, and cost-effective way.

There are more effective approaches to enforce accountability, and I believe the primary sponsor's amendment would accomplish this in a much better way than what was originally proposed in HB 1161.

Thank you.