



# DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

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HB1161  
House Education Committee  
Chair Heinert  
February 17, 2025

Chair Heinert and Committee members, I am Leslie Wietstock, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Dickinson State University. I am here to testify in opposition to House Bill 1161.

When looking at this proposed bill, I have been trying to figure out what problem this is intended to solve, and quite frankly, I have not been able to identify one. During the initial hearing on this bill, a presenter speaking favor indicated that approving this bill would save the State a minimum of \$32 million and could reach as much as \$50 million. Given that the university system's appropriations are based on credit hours, which is significantly different than other state departments, I am not sure how savings of this level could be attained.

It was also noted at the initial hearing that to implement this change would require changes be made to the funding formula used to determine the level of each university's appropriation. I am not sure how these changes could be identified and put into place by the time this legislative session ends.

Newton's third law of motion is "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction!" Do we know what the reaction would be if this bill passes? Again, I ask, what problem is this bill intended to fix? If we cannot answer that, then we should not approve a measure that will know will cause a significant reaction.

Please give this measure a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.