

HB 1161
House Education Committee

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Chair Heinert and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on behalf of the North Dakota State College of Science concerning House Bill No. 1161.

NDSCS stands in opposition to House Bill No. 1161.

House Bill No. 1161 proposes the establishment of a funding pool for vacant full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. This bill mandates the transfer of appropriation authority for vacant positions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to be held in a dedicated funding pool. NDSCS would then need to request allocations from this pool to fill vacant positions or hire temporary employees.

While NDSCS understands the intent of the bill, HB 1161 will hinder our ability to be flexible and responsive in our mission to train the workforce. At NDSCS, each vacant position is carefully reviewed by the leadership team and potentially revised and/or redeployed to another program/area to meet the needs of the institution as the workforce evolves. These funds allow NDSCS to adapt and focus resources on critical issues for our students, faculty and staff.

NDSCS asks for a Do Not Pass on HB1161 to allow us to continue fulfilling our mission to efficiently and effectively provide training for the workforce of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Keith Johnson/Rod Flanigan
NDSCS