



HB 1404

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Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

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Chair Beard and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill and I am Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here today in support of HB 1404.

The North Dakota Student Association is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects higher education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

This academic year, the NDSA passed [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium, wherein one of our priorities is "Incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS through supporting scholarships and grants comparable to others in the region and to workforce needs." Expanding the eligibility for students to qualify for the North Dakota Scholarship is a great way for prospective students to be able to access higher education and incentivize students to stay in North Dakota to earn their degree to enter the North Dakota workforce.

Personally, as a recipient, the North Dakota scholarship assisted my family and me with affording North Dakota's higher education.

The NDSA supports the bill as is and asks that this committee gives HB 1404 a DO PASS recommendation.