

Testimony for HB 1220

March 20, 2025

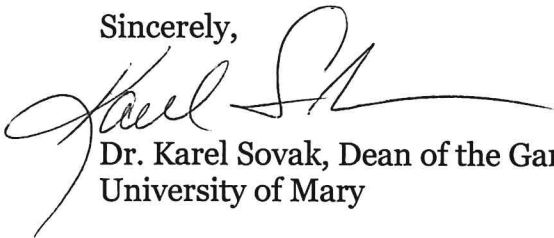
In my role as Dean of the Gary Tharaldson School of Business, it is an important part of my position to keep a pulse on the needs of the business community. My discussions with all business leaders always result in the same two answers – the need for critical thinking and prudent decision making and great communication skills – both oral and written. That includes the ability to listen.

Our liberal art education within the University of Mary provides a great complement to the technical and professional skillset to which our students obtain. In addition to the strong emphasis and practical application of the above skills, our ethical decision-making studies incorporate the exposure our students have in the philosophical and theological lessons instilled upon them. They learn how to apply those responsible choices within the workplace, making them a valuable member of the team.

We also teach them how to be good stewards with the resources to which they have been entrusted, whether that is financial, physical, natural, technological or human. The interdisciplinary lessons help them to connect their knowledge to thrive in a more diverse environment that business entails. Additionally, students in these programs gain a broader understanding of perspectives and social dynamics that enhance their leadership potential and global competency. Lastly, their emotional intelligence is far superior to those students who are simply engaged in technical building skills, as important as those might be in today's society.

Allowing students to be engaged in the liberal arts brings an important life-long learning resiliency to the workplace and prepares students to be a more vibrant force for good in whatever vocation they choose. I ask the committee to vote no on HB 1220 relating to the a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karel Sovak', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Karel Sovak, Dean of the Gary Tharaldson School of Business
University of Mary