

NDSU

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

HB 1220

March 21, 2025

Phillip Truew, NDSU Student Government

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Chairman Wobema and Members of the Committee: My name is Jason Fincel, and I am the Executive Commissioner of Legislative Affairs for North Dakota State University's Student Government. I would like to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1220 on behalf of NDSU students.

NDSU Student Government represents the interests of our student body both on campus and at the legislature. We are comprised of students from all academic colleges, ensuring diverse representation. Our mission is to advocate for policies that improve our university and support student success.

While NDSU students support efforts to improve educational affordability and accessibility, HB 1220 raises significant concerns. The bill proposes creating an accelerated degree option for high-demand occupations that eliminates general education requirements. While accelerated programs can be valuable when they maintain academic integrity, removing general education coursework risks producing degrees that may not meet accreditation standards or be widely recognized outside North Dakota. This could limit students' career opportunities, particularly if they seek employment in other states or pursue further education.

General education courses provide students with critical skills such as communication, analytical thinking, and cultural awareness—skills that employers consistently value. Cutting these requirements may unintentionally undermine the long-term success of students in high-demand fields.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you provide a DO NOT PASS recommendation for HB 1220 as written. Thank you for your time and consideration.