

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1470

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1470
1/31/2023

Relating to back-to-college grants; and to provide an appropriation.

3:39 PM Chairman Heinert called meeting to order

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Retention efforts
- Stop out students
- High school Gap college students
- Career changers
- Financial assistance
- One time grant
- 3-year gap
- Fiscal note
- Interim committee discussion
- Pilot program
- Institution inclusivity
- State Board of Higher Education

Rep Hager, Dist 21, introduced HB 1470, Testimony #18055

Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs, NDUS, Testimony 18127

3:57 PM hearing closed.

Rep LaurieBeth Hager moved to amend LC# 23.0863.01001. Testimony 21165

Seconded by Rep Schreiber- Beck.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Rep Schreiber Beck moved a Do Pass as Amended, seconded by Rep Murphy.
Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	N
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y

Representative Scott Dyk	N
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	N
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	N
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Eric James Murphy	N
Representative Anna S. Novak	N
Representative Kelby Timmons	N

4-10-0 Motion failed.

Representative Heilman moved a do not pass as amended, seconded by Rep. Timmons

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	N
Representative Liz Conmy	N
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	N
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	N
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

10-4-0 Motion carried. Rep Heilman will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Tena Lawrence, Executive VP, University of Jamestown, Testimony 17988
Rylee Lindemann, VP of Government Affairs, Fargo, Testimony 18033

4:14 PM Chairman Heinert closed the meeting.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

23.0863.01001
Title.03000

Adopted by the House Education Committee

January 31, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1470

Page 1, line 14, replace "twelve" with "thirty-six"

Renumber accordingly

AG
1-31-23
(1-1)

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1470: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1470 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 14, replace "twelve" with "thirty-six"

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY

HB 1470



North Dakota House Education Committee
Chairman Pat Heinert
January 31, 2023

Re: House Bill 1470

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Tena Lawrence, Executive Vice President at the University of Jamestown. I write in support of HB 1470 which would establish a back-to-college grant program. I would like to ask for the committee's support for including all accredited higher education institutions as eligible for selection by the students receiving this grant.

Graduates for Workforce

The University of Jamestown has 1,275 students in 44 majors, 3 masters, and 2 doctoral programs. UJ has approximately 250 employees and an economic impact in excess of \$110m. Our students are an integral part of our communities. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%. When workforce challenges abound, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain prospective students, at any age, in North Dakota's higher education programs.

Scholarships For ND Grads

The decision to include private, North Dakota-based universities in this back-to-college grant program would support residents considering a higher education degree, no matter which institution they pursue.

This grant funding would not be the first public funding to support students at the University of Jamestown. Jimmie students access four of North Dakota's seven scholarship offerings. In fact, a recent data pull from the NDUS office shows that between 2020-2022, a total of \$6.64 million, or 10% of North Dakota's total scholarship funds, are going to students at the University of Jamestown, the University of Mary, and Trinity Bible College. On average, \$1.42 million is disbursed to U Mary students each year, \$718,000 to students at UJ, and \$72,000 to Trinity Bible College students. State dollars are already assisting private college students through our scholarship programs—because they are all North Dakota students.

Suggested Amendment(s):

On page 1, lines 9 and 10, where it reads:

“...an institution under the control of the state board of higher education.”

Replace with:

“...accredited institutions of higher education in this state.”

On page 1, lines 22, where it reads:

“...institutions under the control of the state board of higher education...”

Replace with:

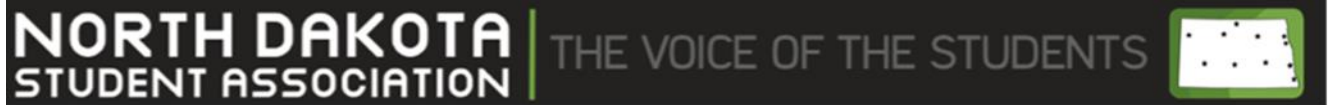
“...accredited institutions of higher education in this state...”

With this change, the back-to-college grant would be available to all North Dakota students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tena Lawrence

Executive Vice President
University of Jamestown



HB 1470

January 31, 2023

Rylee Lindemann, North Dakota Student Association

701-297-6916 | rylee.lindemann@ndus.edu

Chair and Members of the Committee: My name is Rylee Lindemann and I am the Vice-President of Governmental Affairs and I am here today in support of HB 1470

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 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 institutions meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy. Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy.

HB 1470 would have a positive impact on higher education in North Dakota. This bill funds an important grant to help assist people who started but did not finish college. Those who find themselves unable to finish their degree often find themselves in precarious financial situations. Lacking a college degree may negatively impact an individual or family financially, not only because having a degree often increases one's income but also because paying back loans is greatly impeded by that missing increase in income. As inflation continues to rise, and the cost of everyday items becomes increasingly more expensive, the percentage of income that becomes disposable shrinks. This has negative repercussions not only at the individual level but at the state level as well. North Dakotans who have not finished college and are spending large portions of their income on repaying loans for a degree they never finished, are not creating as much as an economic benefit as they could be. Rather than buying gas or supporting a local business,

students who did not finish school will prioritize paying back their loans. This results in the short circuiting of economic stimulus that otherwise would have occurred.

This bill is timely as well. After the COVID-19 pandemic forced many students across the state into less than favorable learning conditions, many students simply dropped out or decided to put their education on pause. HB 1470 would assist in providing those students with a financial incentive to return to school. In turn, these returning students would finally be able to finish their degree and thus provide the state with a huge return on investment by having a higher income to not only repay their loans but also to further contribute to our state's economy.

For students of higher education who have been knocked down, whether by covid or another reason, HB 1470 does not simply seek a return on investment, however. This bill may just be the thing to give student who second questioned their education the motivation to return.

HB 1470

Chair Heinert and Vice Chair Schreiber Beck and fellow members of the House Education Committee.

This afternoon I present HB 1470 to you. This bill currently called the Back to College Grant Program will provide financial assistance grants for individuals returning to college after years of being in the workforce or if they had ceased college with our attaining their degree.

Earlier this session, our committee received several bills advanced from the Higher Education Interim Committee. Representative Sanford presented that package of bills to our committee. The interim committee had been tasked with reviewing scholarship and financial aid programs to determine if there were areas of unmet need or gaps. In our state examples of financial assistance are: Need Based, Academic, Career Tech Scholarships, Dual credit, High need areas (teachers, special ed or nurses) and the Challenge Grants. One other area that was reviewed by the interim committee was financial assistance for students who have ceased enrollment without attaining a degree. HB 1470 has been developed based on the concepts reviewed by the Interim Committee. A similar program has been implemented in the state of Indiana called the "You Can Come Back" Program. HB 1470 is modeled after that but with a few enhancements.

During my career in Higher Education, I specialized in designing "retention efforts and designing programming for first year college students to decrease factors that would cause students to drop out or to stop out of college.

The first category of individual who would be targeted with HB 1470 is the college student who stopped out of their degree program. A variety of reasons could have led to the decision to cease their enrollment.

Financial reasons

Pregnancy or parenthood

Medical conditions or mental health reasons

Death or illness of a family member

Readiness issues/Adulting skills

Poor fit between student and college

Timing.

Another category of individuals targeted would be the individual who did not enter college immediately after high school. There are many reasons that a person may not enroll in college immediately after graduating from HS:

Financial

Direct entry into the workforce—perhaps to work in the Bakken

Personal reasons or readiness issues

After a few years or even after many years in the workforce, an individual may desire to attend college as an older than traditional student but may need a bit of financial enticement.

The third category of individuals would be career changers or retired individuals who did not seek a college degree but now are considering college attendance. There is no upper age limit for this Back to College Grant.

The Back to College Program will target each of these groups of individuals and provide a financial grant/stipend to incentivize and to enable individuals to return to college.

In essence, this is a fairly simple bill and a system to provide financial assistance to this specific group of residents of the state of North Dakota.

This bill would provide a 1-time \$2500 grant for tuition and fees—approximately 6 credits.

Individuals at least 25 years of age or students who have not attended college for 3 years would be eligible.

The fiscal note for this program is \$1 Million and is based on 400 students obtaining this grant.

The exact policies and procedures to develop, implement, promote, and administer this Back to College Grant Program will be adopted by the state board of higher education.

I stand before you for questions.



HB1470

House Education Committee

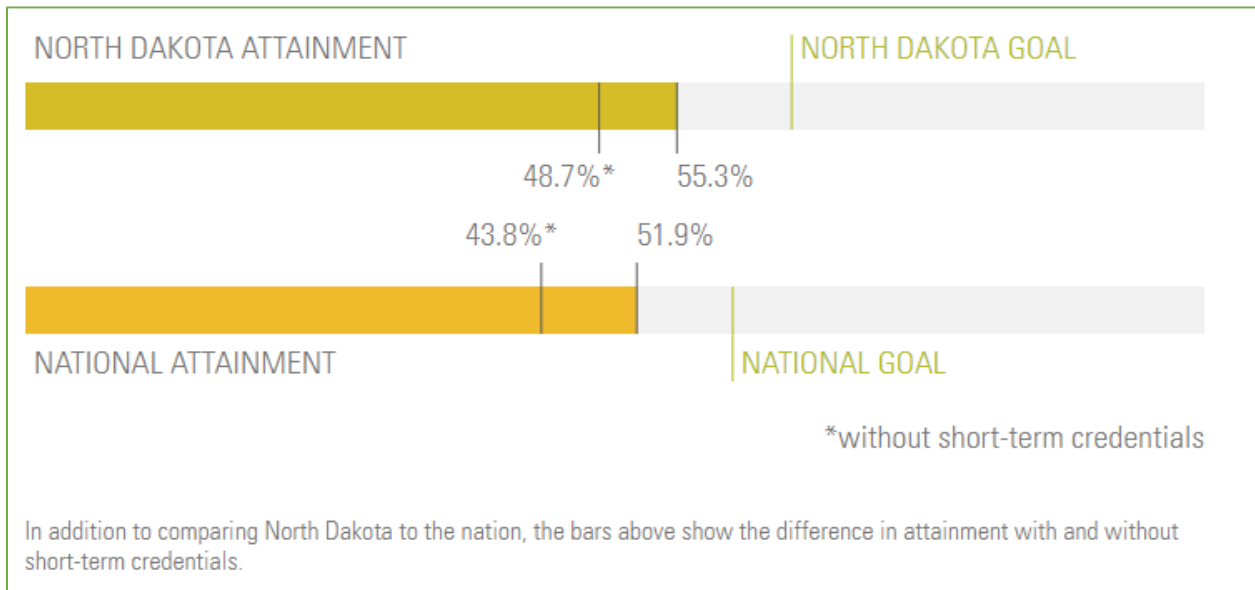
January 31, 2023

Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs, NDUS
701.328.4143 | lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System to provide testimony in support of HB1470.

The Lumina Foundation has indicated that by 2025, 60 percent of Americans, ages 25-64, will need some type of high-quality credential beyond high school to fulfill workforce needs. The Lumina Foundation tracks not only national progress towards this attainment goal but produces a report roughly every other year containing state level data—some which I’m sharing with you today.

The state of North Dakota established a goal of 65%--slightly above that of the state national goal of 60 percent. To reach that goal, the North Dakota will have to maintain current rates of attainment, but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014) and industry certifications (in 2018), North Dakota’s overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 11.6 percentage points since 2009.



North Dakota Degree Attainment by County (2019)

Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people with an associate degree or higher.



This bill, supporting “back to college” or a return of individuals age 25 or older with some college and no degree or no college at all encourages individuals to consider a return to college to complete high quality certificates, associate degrees or higher, or industry credentials to meet the state’s greatest workforce needs. As you can see, particularly when examining attainment by county—we have the potential to expand the number of credentials among individuals as 25 or older.

In response to this growing demand, the NDUS has developed over 300 new certificate programs in the last five years—at all levels (dual credit, undergraduate, graduate, non-degree). These short-term certificates enable institutions to combine or stack credentials to more nimbly respond to immediate and emerging workforce needs. Further, enables students to stop out, start up, or simply complete their degree in smaller increments. The NDUS supports a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB1470.

23.0863.01001

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1470

Introduced by

Representative Hager

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to back-to-college grants; and to provide an appropriation.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Back-to-college grant.**

- 7 1. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
8 implement, promote, and administer a back-to-college grant program to encourage
9 residents of the state age twenty-five years or older to enroll in an institution under the
10 control of the state board of higher education.
- 11 2. Individuals aged twenty-five years or older enrolled in an institution under the control
12 of the state board of higher education may apply for a grant under this section. Eligible
13 applicants may not have completed a course at an institution of higher education in the
14 twelvetwenty-six months preceding the application nor previously received a
15 postsecondary degree.
- 16 3. Subject to legislative appropriations, eligible applicants may be awarded up to two
17 thousand five hundred dollars to assist the individual with the costs of completing the
18 qualifying educational program. Grants are limited to the amount charged each
19 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition and fees
20 required for the educational program.
- 21 4. Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
22 grants to institutions under the control of the state board of higher education to provide
23 the amounts necessary for the grants awarded to the students enrolled in each
24 institution.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION -**
2 **BACK-TO-COLLEGE GRANT.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
3 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as
4 may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing financial
5 assistance to students eligible for the back-to-college grant program, for the biennium beginning
6 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.