

2023 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2197

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2197
1/18/2023

| |
|---|
| Relating to the re-energize ND scholarship; provide an appropriation; provide an expiration date. |
|---|

10:00 AM Chair Elkin opened hearing. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Senator Axtman, Senator Conley, Senator Lemm, and Senator Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- New section
- More workers
- Guidelines
- Eligible counties
- Recruitment

10:01 AM Senator Karen Krebsbach, District 40, bill sponsor, introduced the bill and testified in support. #15325

10:10 AM Mark Hagerott, ND University Chancellor, testified in support. #13932

10:15 AM Senator Patton, Dist 26, testified in support – no written testimony.

10:18 AM Bernell Hirning, Williston State College testified in support– no written testimony.

10:21 AM Steve Easton, Pres Dickinson State College, testified in support. #13913

10:25 AM Geoff Simon, Western Dakota Energy Assoc., testified in support. #14117

10:28 AM Steve Holen, Superintendent for McKenzie County District #1, in support #14818

10:30 AM Ron Ness, Pres Petroleum Council, in support with no written testimony

10:36 AM Amy Cleary, GA Group for University of Jamestown, read the testimony of Dr. Polly Peterson, who is in support. #14016

10:38 AM Kevin Hoherz, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified in a neutral position. #14052

Additional written testimony:

Leslie Bieber, Supt pf Alexander Public Schools, in support #13965

10:30 AM Chair Elkin closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2197
1/18/2023

| |
|---|
| Relating to the re-energize ND scholarship; provide an appropriation; provide an expiration date. |
|---|

11:30 AM Chair Elkin opened committee work.

Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Senator Axtman, Senator Conley, Senator Lemm, and Senator Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Bill review

11:30 AM Bernell Hirning, President of Williston State College, responded verbally to questions of the committee

11:32 AM Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the ND University System, answered questions.

11:34 AM Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid for the ND University System, answered questions.

11:35 AM Bernell Hirning, provided further information.

11:49 AM Chair Elkin adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2197
1/18/2023
2:00 PM

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|---|
| Relating to the re-energize ND scholarship; provide an appropriation; provide an expiration date. |
|---|

2:00 PM. Chair Elkin opened committee work. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- 4 Pillars of scholarship
- Time frames

2:04 PM Chair Elkin adjourned the committee work.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2197
1/25/2023

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|---|
| Relating to the re-energize ND scholarship; to provide an appropriation; to provide an expiration date. |
|---|

2:55 PM Chair Elkin opened committee work. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Axtman moved a DO NOT PASS.

Sen Conley seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Jay Elkin | Y |
| Senator Todd Beard | N |
| Senator Michelle Axtman | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Randy D. Lemm | Y |
| Senator Michael A. Wobbema | N |

VOTE: YES – 4 NO – 2 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Sen Axtman will carry the bill.

3:10 PM Chair Elkin closed the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2197: Education Committee (Sen. Elkin, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2197 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2197
1/30/2023

| |
|---|
| Relating to the re-energize ND scholarship; provide an appropriation, provide an expiration date. |
|---|

3:40 PM Chair opened committee work. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Axtman moved to reconsider amendments.

Sen Beard seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Jay Elkin | Y |
| Senator Todd Beard | Y |
| Senator Michelle Axtman | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Randy D. Lemm | Y |
| Senator Michael A. Wobbema | Y |

VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 Absent 0

Motion PASSED

Sen Axtman moved to withdraw amendments.

Sen Conley seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Jay Elkin | Y |
| Senator Todd Beard | Y |
| Senator Michelle Axtman | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Randy D. Lemm | Y |
| Senator Michael A. Wobbema | Y |

VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 Absent 0

Motion PASSED

Sen Axtman moved DO NOT PASS on SB 2197.

Sen Wobbema seconded the motion.

Roll call taken.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Senator Jay Elkin | Y |
| Senator Todd Beard | N |
| Senator Michelle Axtman | Y |
| Senator Cole Conley | Y |
| Senator Randy D. Lemm | Y |
| Senator Michael A. Wobbema | Y |

VOTE: YES 5 NO 1 Absent 0

Motion PASSED

Sen Axtman will carry the bill.

3:45 PM Chair Elkin closed the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2197: Education Committee (Sen. Elkin, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2197 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2197

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
2/6/2023

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|---|
| A BILL for an act relating to the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date. |
|---|

10:31 AM Acting Chairman Schaible opened the meeting for SB 2197.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer
Members absent: Senator Krebsbach

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota scholarships
- Re-energize scholarships

10:31 AM Senator Sorvaag introduced the bill, written testimony from Senator Krebsbach, testimony # 19292

10:33 AM Ron Ness, President North Dakota Petroleum Council, testified in favor, suggested an amendment that is coming, no written testimony

10:38 AM Mark Hagerott, Chancellor North Dakota University Systems, testified in favor, testimony # 19287

10:41 AM Renell Harding, President Williston State College, testified in favor, no written testimony

10:44 AM Steve Easton, President Dickinson State, testified in favor, testimony #19286

10:45 AM Amy Cleary, GA Group, introduced Tena Lawrence, no written testimony

10:45 AM Tena Lawrence, Executive Vice President University of Jamestown, testified in favor, requested an amendment to include all universities in North Dakota, testimony #19197

10:48 AM Ron Ness, President North Dakota Petroleum Council, introduced an amendment that will be proposed by Senator Krebsbach

Additional Written testimony:

- Christopher Scott, testimony # 19234

10:59 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
2/7/2023

A BILL for an act relating to the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

8:38 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting for SB 2197.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota scholarships
- Re-energize scholarships

8:39 AM Senator Krebsbach introduced the bill and proposed amendment LC 23.0484.02002, testimony # 27282, #27891

8:44 AM Mark Hagerott, Chancellor North Dakota University System, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony

8:47 AM Senator Krebsbach moved to adopt amendment LC 23.0484.02002. Senator Rust seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Karen K. Krebsbach | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator David S. Rust | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |

The motion passed 5-0-0.

8:53 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
2/9/2023

A BILL for an act relating to the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

4:31 PM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting for SB 2197.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota scholarships
- Re-energize scholarships

4:32 PM Senator Schaible explained the amendment LC 23.0484.02003.

4:34 PM Senator Schaible moved to adopt amendment 23.0484.02003.
Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Karen K. Krebsbach | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator David S. Rust | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |

Motion passed 5-0-0.

4:37 PM Senator Schaible moved DO PASS AS AMENDED.
Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Karen K. Krebsbach | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator David S. Rust | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Schaible will carry the bill to the full committee.

4:39 PM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
2/10/2023

A bill for an Act relating to the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

11:03 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened meeting.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Members absent: Senator Erbele.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:06 AM Senator Schaible moved to adopt amendment. LC 23.0484.02003.

11:06 AM Senator Sorvaag seconded.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|------|
| Senator Brad Bekkedahl | Y |
| Senator Karen K. Krebsbach | Y |
| Senator Randy A. Burckhard | Y |
| Senator Kyle Davison | Y |
| Senator Dick Dever | Y |
| Senator Michael Dwyer | Y |
| Senator Robert Erbele | AB |
| Senator Curt Kreun | Y |
| Senator Tim Mathern | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator Jim P. Roers | Y |
| Senator David Rust | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Shawn Vedaa | Y |
| Senator Terry M. Wanzek | Y |

Motion passed 15-0-1

11:11 AM Senator Schaible moved a Do Pass as amended.

11:11 AM Senator Vedaa seconded.

| Senators | Vote |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Senator Brad Bekkedahl | Y |
| Senator Karen K. Krebsbach | Y |
| Senator Randy A. Burckhard | Y |
| Senator Kyle Davison | Y |
| Senator Dick Dever | Y |
| Senator Michael Dwyer | Y |
| Senator Robert Erbele | AB |
| Senator Curt Kreun | N |
| Senator Tim Mathern | Y |
| Senator Scott Meyer | Y |
| Senator Jim P. Roers | N |
| Senator David Rust | Y |
| Senator Donald Schaible | Y |
| Senator Ronald Sorvaag | Y |
| Senator Shawn Vedaa | Y |
| Senator Terry M. Wanzek | Y |

Motion passed 13-2-1

11:11 AM Senator Schaible will carry.

11:12 AM Chairman Bekkedahl adjourned meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

February 7, 2023

AG
2-10-23
(1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2197

Page 1, line 10, after the second "applicant" insert "is a resident of the state and"

Page 1, line 12, replace "six" with "twelve"

Page 1, line 12, after "months" insert "during the past thirty-six months"

Page 1, line 13, remove "or former"

Page 1, line 13, replace "was" with "has been"

Page 1, line 15, replace "six" with "twelve"

Page 1, line 21, after "must" insert "remain a resident of the state and"

Page 2, line 1, replace "two thousand" with "one thousand five hundred"

Page 2, line 3, replace "sixteen" with "twelve"

Page 2, line 3, after "dollars" insert "and the combined award for all family members associated with an individual employee in the oil and gas industry may not exceed twenty-four thousand dollars"

Page 2, line 9, after the eighth underscored comma insert "McLean,"

Page 2, line 13, replace "\$10,250,000" with "\$5,125,000"

Page 2, line 17, replace "\$250,000" with "\$125,000"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2197: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2197 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

Page 1, line 10, after the second "applicant" insert "is a resident of the state and"

Page 1, line 12, replace "six" with "twelve"

Page 1, line 12, after "months" insert "during the past thirty-six months"

Page 1, line 13, remove "or former"

Page 1, line 13, replace "was" with "has been"

Page 1, line 15, replace "six" with "twelve"

Page 1, line 21, after "must" insert "remain a resident of the state and"

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Page 2, line 3, after "dollars" insert "and the combined award for all family members associated with an individual employee in the oil and gas industry may not exceed twenty-four thousand dollars"

Page 2, line 9, after the eighth underscored comma insert "McLean."

Page 2, line 13, replace "\$10,250,000" with "\$5,125,000"

Page 2, line 17, replace "\$250,000" with "\$125,000"

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2197

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
3/7/2023

| |
|--|
| Relating to the Re-energized North Dakota Scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date. |
|--|

9:00 AM

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

Discussion Topics:

- Tax revenue
- Oil industry
- Workforce shortage
- Retention program
- Recruiting tool
- Residency
- Accreditation
- API scholarship (American Petroleum Institute)

Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, NDUS, Testimony 22358

Stephen Easton, President, Dickinson State University, Testimony 22260

Ron Ness, North Dakota Petroleum Council, oral testimony

Geoff Simon, lobbyist, Western Dakota Energy Association, Testimony 22483

Kresha Wiest, Chief Financial Officer, University of Jamestown, Testimony 22376

Shane Goettle, lobbyist, University of Mary, oral testimony

Additional written testimony:

Monsignor Shea, President, University of Mary, Bismarck, Testimony 22470

Faith Wahl, Student Body President, UND, Grand Forks, Testimony 22479

10:01 AM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2197
3/20/2023

Relating to the re-energized North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

3:17 PM

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

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action
- Scholarship program
- Emergency declaration
- Amendment 23.0484.03001

Rep Murphy, Amendment 23.0484.03001, Testimony #25980

Rep Murphy moved to adopt Amendment 23.0484.03001, seconded by Rep Longmuir. Voice vote. Results were undetermined so a roll call vote was called.

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

9-5-0 Motion carried.

Rep Murphy moved a Do Pass as Amended and Rerefer to Appropriations, seconded by Rep. Jonas.

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

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

1-13-0 Motion failed.

Rep Timmons moved a Do Not Pass as Amended, seconded by Rep Heilman.

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

14-0-0 Motion carried. Rep Heilman is carrier.

3:35 PM Meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

Act
3-20-23
(1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2197

Page 1, line 3, remove "and"

Page 1, line 3, after "date" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, line 10, remove the second "is"

Page 1, line 11, remove "a resident of the state and"

Page 1, line 13, replace "thirty-six" with "twenty-four"

Page 1, line 16, after "months" insert "and is enrolled in a face-to-face educational program"

Page 1, line 21, remove "under the control of the state board"

Page 1, line 21, after "education" insert "in North Dakota"

Page 2, line 10, replace ", an oil" with ":

- a. "Immediate family member" means a spouse or child.
- b. "Oil"

Page 2, line 10, after "county" insert an underscored quotation mark

Page 2, after line 22, insert:

"SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2197, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2197 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, remove "and"

Page 1, line 3, after "date" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, line 10, remove the second "is"

Page 1, line 11, remove "a resident of the state and"

Page 1, line 13, replace "thirty-six" with "twenty-four"

Page 1, line 16, after "months" insert "and is enrolled in a face-to-face educational program"

Page 1, line 21, remove "under the control of the state board"

Page 1, line 21, after "education" insert "in North Dakota"

Page 2, line 10, replace ", an oil" with ":

a. "Immediate family member" means a spouse or child.

b. "Oil"

Page 2, line 10, after "county" insert an underscored quotation mark

Page 2, after line 22, insert:

"SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY

SB 2197



DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

STEPHEN D. EASTON, J.D.

President

(701) 483-2326

steve.easton@dickinsonstate.edu

January 17, 2023

The Honorable Jay Elkin, Chair
Senate Education Committee
68th Legislative Assembly
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Dear Chair Elkin and Senate Education Committee Members:

Please consider this letter my enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 2197, the Re-Energize North Dakota Scholarship bill.

This bill would take a major step toward building and maintaining an oil and gas workforce for North Dakota, by providing scholarships to oil and gas employees and their spouses and children. This will both attract workers to North Dakota and keep them here, by building roots into our community via our North Dakota University System institutions.

Dickinson State University looks forward to teaching some of these learners. We have long treasured our relationship with oil and gas families. Because we are mindful that a college education is a major family expenditure, we believe this bill will allow us to educate even more of these students.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Easton



Senate Education Committee

January 18, 2023

Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, NDUS
701.328.2963 | mark.hagerott@ndus.edu

Chair Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Mark Hagerott, and I serve as the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System and its eleven institutions to provide testimony in support of SB2197, which creates the Re-energize North Dakota Scholarship.

As is accepted fact, the oil and gas industry now produces substantial state surplus tax revenue that flows into most every existing and new program. The average oil worker produces an astounding surplus per capita, close to \$100,000, which creates almost \$4 billion in tax revenue and \$36 billion direct economic impact. But there is a threat to this mother lode of wealth from which the people of North Dakota benefit: a severe workforce shortage.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Branch challenged higher education to do more to help solve the State's workforce shortage. To be sure, our colleges in Western North Dakota have, for decades, designed programs to help educate and train oil workers and their families. Through discussions with legislators and industry representatives, the NDUS realized that it could do more to help recruit and retain oil workers. This is what SB 2197 will do for the oil & gas industry, much like the GI Bill does for the military.

The Re-energize ND Scholarship will help Recruit more workforce to the crucial oil fields; help Retain them in the face of poaching campaigns in states south of us; and provide a path to Re-train or upskill these dedicated people and their family members. The bill could also create a standing Reserve of veteran oil workers who can return to the petroleum industry after completing their education, or work in related and supporting fields such as nursing or teaching.

This concludes my testimony related to SB2197. I respectfully request a **Do Pass** recommendation for this important bill and will stand for questions from Committee members.

01/17/2023

Madam Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leslie Bieber; I am the Superintendent of Alexander Public School in Alexander, ND. I am in favor of Senate Bill 2197. Out of the 154 families at Alexander Public School, 102, 66%, work in the oil and gas industry.

In the last few years, scholarship opportunities have become available for paraprofessionals to go back to school to become teachers. In Alexander, six of our paras have returned to school for their education degree due to the scholarship opportunities hence helping with our teacher shortage.

Likewise, this scholarship for oil and gas employees and families will be an incentive for students to pursue careers within the industry following the footsteps of their families.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie Bieber



Senate Education Committee
Chairman Jay Elkin
January 18, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Polly Peterson, President of the University of Jamestown. I am speaking today in favor of the newly proposed “re-energize North Dakota scholarship,” but with one amendment request. I would like to ask that for your consideration in opening the scholarship to students at any institution of higher education in North Dakota.

Students at the University of Jamestown are North Dakota students. They are North Dakota-educated. And they are needed to fill critical workforce needs across the state, including the oil and gas industry workforce.

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 during their school term and after graduation. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

UJ students are graduating with degrees in nursing, elementary education, business administration, secondary education, civil and mechanical engineering, exercise science, biology, accounting, criminal justice, and computer science, to name a few of our top majors. These graduates are filling jobs in critical-need areas. Graduates from several of these programs directly feed and support our oil and gas industry workforce, as well as those ancillary industries that support the communities most greatly impacted by North Dakota’s energy development. When workforce challenges abound in North Dakota, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain our high school students at North Dakota institutions of higher ed.

The State Supports All Students

Currently, Jimmie students access four of North Dakota’s seven scholarship offerings: The ND Academic Scholarship, ND Career and Technical Education Scholarship, ND Scholars Scholarship, and ND Indian Scholarship. We would appreciate the opportunity to include yet a fifth in the form of this new Re-energize North Dakota scholarship.

We believe funding for higher education in North Dakota should focus on students who are residents of North Dakota, and who attend a North Dakota college.

Suggested Amendment:

Page 1, lines 19 and 20, currently provide as follows:

“The educational program must be provided at an institution under the control of the state board of higher education.”

We would greatly appreciate the committee’s consideration to replace that language with the following:

“The educational program must be provided at a North Dakota institution of higher learning.”

With this change, the scholarship will be available to all North Dakota students.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Polly Peterson
President University of Jamestown
ppeterso@uj.edu
701-252-3467



1 SB 2197

2 Neutral Testimony

3 Good morning, Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. For
4 the record my name is Kevin Hoherz, and I am here representing the North Dakota Council
5 of Educational Leaders representing your school leaders across North Dakota.

6 We are here to provide neutral testimony on SB 2197. As I have testified on an earlier
7 scholarship bill, SB 2033, we are in favor of supporting teachers for recruitment and
8 retention. SB 2197 helps with this as does SB 2033 and an upcoming house bill too. Loan
9 forgiveness and scholarships like the Career Builders legislation will help develop the
10 workforce. Our neutral testimony is coming with the recommendation to align the
11 funding of the three scholarship and loan forgiveness bills being heard during this 68th
12 Legislative Session.

13 Please take this into consideration when discussing SB 2197.



WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

January 18, 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Trudy Ruland
President
Mountrail County

Supt. Leslie Bieber
Vice President
Alexander PSD

Zach Gaaskjolen
City of Stanley

Keith Harris
Dickinson PSD

Supt. Tim Holte
Stanley PSD

Shannon Holter
City of Bowbells

Lyn James
City of Bowman

Nick Klemisch
Garrison PSD
Coal Conversion
Counties

David Montgomery
Williams County

Craig Pelton
Dunn County

John Phillips
Coal Conversion
Counties

Testimony of:

Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144

in support of HB 2197 – Re-energize North Dakota scholarships
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Elkin and Committee members:

On behalf of the city, county and school district members of the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA), we wish to express our strong support for SB 2197 to establish a scholarship program that would help to address the pressing needs for workers in the oilfields of western North Dakota. For the committee's information, the members of our association are "in the game," offering multiple \$1,000 scholarships annually to students pursuing an energy-related career in North Dakota.

Anyone who's been following recent developments in the Bakken understands the No. 1 constraint on enhancing oil production is the ability to develop and attract workforce. The provisions of SB 2197 are sufficiently broad to address the education and training needs of virtually every high-demand job in the oilpatch. Applying eligibility for scholarship applicants to any institution under the authority of the Board of Higher Education means the benefits of the legislation could be realized by anyone from a graduate student in Petroleum Engineering, to students in a short-term training program that produces skilled workers in welding or diesel technology.

From the feedback we've received, the most common point made by employers regarding workforce development is that training opportunities must be convenient, flexible, affordable, and above all, local. There is no doubt students who received their education hundreds of miles from the heart of the Bakken have returned to work in the oilfields, but the odds are much greater if the education/training is closer to home.

The establishment of a Re-Energize North Dakota scholarship fund will be a valuable workforce development and attraction tool. WDEA urges the Senate Education Committee to approve a unanimous Do Pass on SB 2197, and to send it on to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony and would be happy to provide additional details upon request.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB 2197
Chairman Elkin
Senate Education Committee
January 18th, 2023

Good morning. Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record, my name is Steven Holen and I am superintendent of schools for the McKenzie County Public School District #1 in Watford City and the forthcoming Bakken Area Skills Center. I am here to testify in support of SB 2197 and its appropriation to provide scholarships directed to recruiting and retaining necessary workforce within the oil and gas industry in North Dakota.

The McKenzie County Public School District #1 has collaborated with our local political subdivisions and oil and gas industry partners for several years to address workforce related needs and the importance of providing the necessary training and education to recruit and retain the necessary workforce to ensure oil and gas development in North Dakota is maintained and grown over the next decades and its value to the entire state of North Dakota. The ability to provide the necessary training and education for not only the actual energy industry, but also all related supporting industries and infrastructure to support ongoing population growth and necessary services in our region. The ability to recruit and retain a highly qualified workforce is essential to the oil and gas industry and to the economic capacity of North Dakota into the foreseeable future. The Re-energize scholarships will assist in providing these opportunities to meet the needs of our Industry partners and our general communities.

The Bakken Area Skills Center was developed to help address workforce needs in our region and provide ongoing, high quality training and education to K-12 students, post-secondary students, and adult workers desperately needed in our region. The Re-energize scholarships complement the efforts of the Bakken Area Skills Center and to help incentivize students or employees of all ages to pursue any levels of education or training to better themselves and to meet the needs of our major employers. The Bakken Area Skills Center is collaborating with our several post-secondary institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education to provide certifications, credentials, and degrees to meet the flexibility and convenience needed as the workers are required to be employed full-time while pursuing their additional education and training. The affordability of these trainings and the flexibility of the models provided are essential to the workforce needs of our oil and gas employers and partners. SB 2197 makes a substantial effort to address the affordability of these options regardless of the level of training or certification pursued.

The collaboration of government with bills such as SB 2197 and local education opportunities with K-12 and post-secondary are essential to address the current and ongoing challenges of workforce recruitment and retention. The opportunities available in oil and gas producing counties coupled with training and education incentives will assist to ensure prosperity for our local communities and statewide. Thank you for your support of SB 2197.

SB 2197 TESTIMONY - Sen. Karen K. Krebsbach District 40

Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2023, 8:43 AM

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record I am Senator Karen K. Krebsbach, State Senator District 40, Minot, ND.

SB 2197 creates and enacts a new section entitled "re-energize North Dakota scholarship", it provides for an appropriation and an expiration date.

Section I provides the guidelines for the scholarships which will be under the State Board of Higher Education for the purpose of recruiting and retaining individuals in ND to work in the Oil and Gas Industry. We know the emphasis being placed on workforce and the oil and gas industry employees account for 50,000 and are in desperate need of thousands more.

Applicants are eligible for the re-energize North Dakota scholarship if they are or were employed in the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas producing county for a minimum of six month or is an immediate family member of a current or former employee in the oil and gas industry in a producing county for a minimum of six months. The scholarships must be awarded in the eligible priority identified in subsection two of the bill.

Further guidelines spell out that the recipient must attend a qualifying educational program that results in attainment of workforce training credential, certificate, associate degree, bachelors or master degree and it must be provided at an institution under control of the State Board of Higher Education.

After the initial award the recipient must maintain academic progress in the eligible program to continue receiving the re-energize North Dakota scholarship. Scholarships may be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 per quarter, semester or term. It is limited to \$16,000 per individual and can be used for tuition, fees, books and supplies required for the educational program.

The State Board of Higher Education shall adopt policies and procedures to administer the re-energize scholarship program. The bill spells out the oil and gas producing eligible counties. There was an error of omitting McLean County and this will be corrected by an amendment. The other counties are Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, McHenry, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.

Sec 2. In this section we find the appropriation from the general fund in the amount of \$10,250,000 or what may be a necessary to the State Board of Higher Education for purpose of awarding the re-energize North Dakota scholarships for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The State Board may use up to \$250,000 for student financial assistance and scholarship programs coordination and marketing. The State Board of Higher Education is authorized one full time equivalent position.

Sec 3. Expiration Date Section I of this act is effective through June 30, 2027 and after that date is ineffective.



North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee
 Chairman Brad Bekkedahl
 February 6, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tena Lawrence and I am the Executive Vice President of the University of Jamestown. I am here today in favor of the newly proposed “re-energize North Dakota scholarship,” but with one simple amendment which was previously requested before the Senate Education committee. I would like to ask for your consideration in opening the scholarship to students attending any accredited institution of higher education in North Dakota.

Students at the University of Jamestown are North Dakota students. They are North Dakota-educated. And they are needed to fill critical workforce needs across the state, including the oil and gas industry workforce.

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 during their school term and after graduation. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

UJ students are graduating with degrees in nursing, elementary education, business administration, secondary education, civil and mechanical engineering, exercise science, biology, accounting, criminal justice, and computer science, to name a few of our top majors. These graduates are filling jobs in critical-need areas. Graduates from several of these programs directly feed and support our oil and gas industry workforce, as well as those ancillary industries that support the communities most greatly impacted by North Dakota’s energy development.

When workforce challenges abound in North Dakota, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain our high school students at North Dakota institutions of higher education.

The State Supports All Students

Currently, Jimmie students access four of North Dakota’s seven scholarship offerings: The ND Academic Scholarship, ND Career and Technical Education Scholarship, ND Scholars Scholarship, and ND Indian Scholarship. We would appreciate the opportunity to include yet a fifth in the form of this new Re-energize North Dakota scholarship.

We believe funding for higher education in North Dakota should focus on students who are residents of North Dakota, and who attend a North Dakota college.

Suggested Amendment:

Page 1, line 20, currently reads:

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

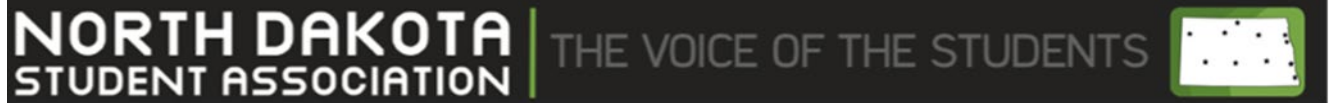
We would greatly appreciate the committee’s consideration to replace that language with the following:

“accredited institution of higher education in the state.”

With this simple change, the Re-energize scholarship will be available to all North Dakota students.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Tena Lawrence
Executive Vice President, University of Jamestown
tlawrenc@uj.edu
701-252-3467 ext. 5415



SB 2197

February 6th, 2023

Christopher Scott, North Dakota Student Association

701-340-3380 | Christopher.m.scott@ndus.edu

Chair Bekkedahl and Members of the Committee: My name is Christopher Scott. I am current President of the North Dakota Student Association and I am writing this in support of SB 2197. If passed, this bill would create an allocation for a scholarship that would be allocated to individuals working in the oil and gas industry.

The North Dakota Student Association was 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.

Last November, the NDSA passed a resolution on its legislative priorities [NDSA-09-2223](#) and a resolution supporting NDUS Scholarships [NDSA-08-2223](#). A few of the priorities enumerated in NDSA-09-2223 were to increase access to student financial aid and ensure students receive education preparing them to enter workforces in emerging technologies such as oil and gas. This bill accomplishes both of these goals.

Additionally, the oil and gas industry is one of the largest economic sectors for the state, bringing in billions in revenue for the state and thousands of people, which could address workforce issues. This scholarship would also help convince oil and gas workers to potentially settle in this state long term, so the NDSA supports SB 2197.



DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

STEPHEN D. EASTON, J.D.

President

(701) 483-2326

steve.easton@dickinsonstate.edu

January 17, 2023

The Honorable Jay Elkin, Chair
Senate Education Committee
68th Legislative Assembly
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Dear Chair Elkin and Senate Education Committee Members:

Please consider this letter my enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 2197, the Re-Energize North Dakota Scholarship bill.

This bill would take a major step toward building and maintaining an oil and gas workforce for North Dakota, by providing scholarships to oil and gas employees and their spouses and children. This will both attract workers to North Dakota and keep them here, by building roots into our community via our North Dakota University System institutions.

Dickinson State University looks forward to teaching some of these learners. We have long treasured our relationship with oil and gas families. Because we are mindful that a college education is a major family expenditure, we believe this bill will allow us to educate even more of these students.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Easton



Senate Education Committee

January 18, 2023

Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, NDUS
701.328.2963 | mark.hagerott@ndus.edu

Chair Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Mark Hagerott, and I serve as the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System and its eleven institutions to provide testimony in support of SB2197, which creates the Re-energize North Dakota Scholarship.

As is accepted fact, the oil and gas industry now produces substantial state surplus tax revenue that flows into most every existing and new program. The average oil worker produces an astounding surplus per capita, close to \$100,000, which creates almost \$4 billion in tax revenue and \$36 billion direct economic impact. But there is a threat to this mother lode of wealth from which the people of North Dakota benefit: a severe workforce shortage.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Branch challenged higher education to do more to help solve the State's workforce shortage. To be sure, our colleges in Western North Dakota have, for decades, designed programs to help educate and train oil workers and their families. Through discussions with legislators and industry representatives, the NDUS realized that it could do more to help recruit and retain oil workers. This is what SB 2197 will do for the oil & gas industry, much like the GI Bill does for the military.

The Re-energize ND Scholarship will help Recruit more workforce to the crucial oil fields; help Retain them in the face of poaching campaigns in states south of us; and provide a path to Re-train or upskill these dedicated people and their family members. The bill could also create a standing Reserve of veteran oil workers who can return to the petroleum industry after completing their education, or work in related and supporting fields such as nursing or teaching.

This concludes my testimony related to SB2197. I respectfully request a **Do Pass** recommendation for this important bill and will stand for questions from Committee members.

SB 2197 TESTIMONY - Sen. Karen K. Krebsbach District 40

Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2023, 8:43 AM

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record I am Senator Karen K. Krebsbach, State Senator District 40, Minot, ND.

SB 2197 creates and enacts a new section entitled "re-energize North Dakota scholarship", it provides for an appropriation and an expiration date.

Section I provides the guidelines for the scholarships which will be under the State Board of Higher Education for the purpose of recruiting and retaining individuals in ND to work in the Oil and Gas Industry. We know the emphasis being placed on workforce and the oil and gas industry employees account for 50,000 and are in desperate need of thousands more.

Applicants are eligible for the re-energize North Dakota scholarship if they are or were employed in the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas producing county for a minimum of six month or is an immediate family member of a current or former employee in the oil and gas industry in a producing county for a minimum of six months. The scholarships must be awarded in the eligible priority identified in subsection two of the bill.

Further guidelines spell out that the recipient must attend a qualifying educational program that results in attainment of workforce training credential, certificate, associate degree, bachelors or master degree and it must be provided at an institution under control of the State Board of Higher Education.

After the initial award the recipient must maintain academic progress in the eligible program to continue receiving the re-energize North Dakota scholarship. Scholarships may be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 per quarter, semester or term. It is limited to \$16,000 per individual and can be used for tuition, fees, books and supplies required for the educational program.

The State Board of Higher Education shall adopt policies and procedures to administer the re-energize scholarship program. The bill spells out the oil and gas producing eligible counties. There was an error of omitting McLean County and this will be corrected by an amendment. The other counties are Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, McHenry, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.

Sec 2. In this section we find the appropriation from the general fund in the amount of \$10,250,000 or what may be a necessary to the State Board of Higher Education for purpose of awarding the re-energize North Dakota scholarships for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The State Board may use up to \$250,000 for student financial assistance and scholarship programs coordination and marketing. The State Board of Higher Education is authorized one full time equivalent position.

Sec 3. Expiration Date Section I of this act is effective through June 30, 2027 and after that date is ineffective.



DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

STEPHEN D. EASTON, J.D.

President

(701) 483-2326

steve.easton@dickinsonstate.edu

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Pat Heinert, Chairman
House Education Committee
68th Legislative Assembly
600 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Dear Chairman Heinert and House Education Committee Members:

Please consider this letter my enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 2197, the Re-Energize North Dakota Scholarship bill.

This bill would take a major step toward building and maintaining an oil and gas workforce for North Dakota, by providing scholarships to oil and gas employees and their spouses and children. This will both attract workers to North Dakota and keep them here, by building roots into our state via our North Dakota University System institutions.

Dickinson State University looks forward to teaching some of these learners. We have long treasured our relationship with oil and gas families. Because we are mindful that a college education is a major family expenditure, we believe this bill will allow us to educate even more of these students by reducing the cost of that education.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steve Easton'.

Stephen D. Easton



House Education Committee

March 7, 2023

Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, NDUS
701.328.2963 | mark.hagerott@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Mark Hagerott, and I serve as the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here today on behalf of the NDUS and its eleven institutions to provide testimony in support of Engrossed SB2197, which creates the Re-energize North Dakota Scholarship.

As is accepted fact, the oil and gas industry now produces substantial state surplus tax revenue that flows into most every existing and new program. The average oil worker produces an astounding surplus per capita, close to \$100,000, which creates almost \$4 billion in tax revenue and \$36 billion direct economic impact. But there is a threat to this mother lode of wealth from which the people of North Dakota benefit: a severe workforce shortage.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Branch challenged higher education to do more to help solve the State's workforce shortage. To be sure, our colleges in western North Dakota have, for decades, designed programs to help educate and train oil workers and their families. Through discussions with legislators and industry representatives, the NDUS realized that it could do more to help recruit and retain oil workers. This is what Engrossed SB 2197 will do for the oil & gas industry.

The Senate graciously and enthusiastically provided \$5.1 million in support of this new scholarship. The Re-energize ND Scholarship will help Recruit more workforce to the crucial oil fields; help Retain them in the face of poaching campaigns in states south of us; and provide a path to Re-train or upskill these dedicated people and their family members. The bill could also create a standing Reserve of veteran oil workers who can return to the petroleum industry after completing their education, or work in related and supporting fields such as nursing or teaching.

This concludes my testimony related to Engrossed SB2197. I respectfully request a **Do Pass** recommendation for this important bill and will stand for questions from Committee members.



North Dakota House Education Committee
Chairman Pat Heinert
March 7, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 2197

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kresha Wiest and I am the Chief Financial Officer for the University of Jamestown. I am here today in favor of the newly proposed “re-energize North Dakota scholarship,” but with one simple amendment which was previously requested before the Senate Education and Senate Appropriations committees. I would like to ask for your consideration in opening the scholarship to students attending any accredited institution of higher education in North Dakota.

Students at the University of Jamestown are North Dakota students. They are North Dakota-educated. And they are needed to fill critical workforce needs across the state, including the oil and gas industry workforce.

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 during their school term and after graduation. Our retention of students in the state after graduation exceeds 70%.

UJ students are graduating with degrees in nursing, elementary education, business administration, secondary education, civil and mechanical engineering, exercise science, biology, accounting, criminal justice, and computer science, to name a few of our top majors. These graduates are filling jobs in critical-need areas. Graduates from these programs directly feed and support our oil and gas industry workforce, as well as those ancillary industries that support the communities most greatly impacted by North Dakota’s energy development.

When workforce challenges abound in North Dakota, we should be prioritizing every effort to retain our high school students at any North Dakota institution of higher education.

The State Supports All Students

Currently, Jimmie students access four of North Dakota’s seven scholarship offerings: The ND Academic Scholarship, ND Career and Technical Education Scholarship, ND Scholars Scholarship, and ND Indian Scholarship.

Additionally, this chamber passed House Bill 1003, including students from the University of Jamestown in the newly created “skilled workforce scholarship program.”

These scholarship programs assist North Dakota students, no matter which school they select for their education. If you are to move the Re-energize North Dakota scholarship forward, we hope it too will include all of North Dakota’s students, to help meet our workforce challenges.

Suggested Amendment:

Page 1, line 21, currently reads:

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

We would greatly appreciate the committee’s consideration to replace that language with the following:

“accredited institution of higher education in the state.”

With this simple change, the Re-energize scholarship will be available to all North Dakota students.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Kresha Wiest
Chief Financial Officer, University of Jamestown



OFFICE of the PRESIDENT

6 March 2023

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Monsignor James Shea, and I am the President of the University of Mary. Today, I am speaking in favor of the proposed "re-energize North Dakota scholarship," with one amendment request. I would like to propose that the scholarship be opened to students from any institution of higher education in North Dakota. As North Dakota students who are educated in the state, our University of Mary students are critical in filling workforce needs across the state, particularly in the oil and gas industry.

The University of Mary boasts a student body of 3,702 students across 56 majors, 17 master's programs, and 5 doctoral programs. We have a workforce of approximately 527 employees and contribute to the state's economy with an impact exceeding \$206 million. Our students are deeply integrated into our communities during their academic careers and beyond. Moreover, many of our graduates remain in the state after graduation, with many of them graduating with degrees in fields such as engineering, nursing, education, business, and cybersecurity. These graduates are critical in filling high-need areas across the state, including the oil and gas industry and other industries that support communities impacted by North Dakota's energy development. The University of Mary is also finding new ways to help fill the need of four-year higher education in the Bakken as we have a location in Watford City and have opened an office in Williston through our Northwest North Dakota Initiative and MOU agreement with Williston State College. Classes in Williston will begin this summer and will help keep residents in the Bakken and help fill the workforce need in the area.

Given the current workforce challenges in North Dakota, it is important that we prioritize efforts to retain high school students at North Dakota institutions of higher education. Currently, University of Mary students have access to four of North Dakota's seven scholarship offerings, including the ND Academic Scholarship, ND Career and Technical Education Scholarship, ND Scholars Scholarship, and ND Indian Scholarship. We believe that opening up the "re-energize North Dakota scholarship" to students from all North Dakota colleges will further support funding for higher education in the state and benefit students who are residents of North Dakota and attending college in the state.

Please consider the following amendment to page 1, lines 19 and 20, currently provided as follows:

“The educational program must be provided at an institution under the control of the state board of higher education.”

We kindly request that the committee consider replacing the aforementioned language with the following:

“The educational program must be provided at a North Dakota institution of higher learning.”

By making this adjustment, all students in North Dakota will have access to the scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. James P. Shea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Monsignor James P. Shea
President



Faith Wahl | UND Student Body President
Faith.wahl@und.edu | 701.426.9123

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Faith Wahl, and I serve as the Student Body President at the University of North Dakota (UND). I am providing testimony in support of SB 2197, relating to the re-energize North Dakota Scholarship.

SB 2197 seeks to award scholarships to students to help recruit and retrain to work in North Dakota in the oil and gas industry. This scholarship not only helps make education more affordable for students but addresses a key workforce shortage in the state. According to the Director of the Department of Mineral Resources, Lynn Helms, North Dakota is “going into 2023 with a serious workforce shortage” [1] in the oil and gas industry. On a national level, North Dakota continues to be one of the top competitors in the oil and gas industry, but still faces workforce challenges as “the number one barrier” to adding drilling and frack crews throughout the state [2]. Furthermore, SB 2197 directs higher education institutions like the University of North Dakota to prioritize key workforce areas throughout the state and direct resources and personnel to addressing those shortages.

Beyond helping to address a need for an industry that produces a significant amount of revenue for the state, SB 2197 includes financial awards that would help decrease barriers to higher education in North Dakota. As an unprecedented inflation rate ripples across the nation, higher education students are faced with the decision on whether to continue their education or prioritize other basic needs such as food, electricity, transportation, and housing. According to Section 1.6 of SB 2197, a student could receive up to \$1,500 per semester or \$3,000 per year under the re-energize North Dakota scholarship. If passed, this program would serve as a competitive advantage for North Dakota as surrounding states seek to attract those same students to their respective programs and industries. The re-energize North Dakota scholarship would also benefit UND in particular based on the unique education opportunities provided by the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC). Combining the scholarship program outlined in SB

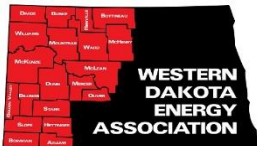
2197 with the innovative energy programs that UND offers will help recruit students to North Dakota, provide them with a quality education, and encourage them to build their lives and families throughout the state.

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education committee, I respectfully request a **DO PASS on SB 2197**. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions that you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Wahl

UND Student Body President



WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Trudy Ruland
President
Mountrail County

Supt. Leslie Bieber
Vice President
Alexander PSD

Zach Gaaskjolen
City of Stanley

Keith Harris
Dickinson PSD

Supt. Tim Holte
Stanley PSD

Shannon Holter
City of Bowbells

Lyn James
City of Bowman

Nick Klemisch
Garrison PSD
Coal Conversion
Counties

David Montgomery
Williams County

Craig Pelton
Dunn County

John Phillips
Coal Conversion
Counties

Testimony of:
Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144
in support of HB 2197 – Re-energize North Dakota scholarships
House Education Committee

Chairman Heinert and Committee members:

On behalf of the city, county and school district members of the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA), we wish to express our strong support for SB 2197 to establish a scholarship program that would help to address the pressing needs for workers in the oilfields of western North Dakota. For the committee’s information, the members of our association are “in the game,” offering multiple \$1,000 or higher scholarships annually to students pursuing an energy-related career in North Dakota.

Anyone who’s been following recent developments in the Bakken understands the No. 1 constraint on enhancing oil production is the ability to develop and attract workforce. The provisions of SB 2197 are sufficiently broad to address the education and training needs of virtually every high-demand job in the oilpatch. Applying eligibility for scholarship applicants to any institution under the authority of the Board of Higher Education means the benefits of the legislation could be realized by anyone from a graduate student in Petroleum Engineering, to students in a short-term training program that produces skilled workers in welding or diesel technology.

From the feedback we’ve received, the most common point made by employers regarding workforce development is that training opportunities must be convenient, flexible, affordable, and above all, local. There is no doubt students who received their education hundreds of miles from the heart of the Bakken have returned to work in the oilfields, but the odds are much greater if the education/training is closer to home.

The establishment of a Re-Energize North Dakota scholarship fund will be a valuable workforce development and attraction tool. WDEA urges the Senate Education Committee to approve a unanimous Do Pass on SB 2197, and to send it on to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony and would be happy to provide additional details upon request.

Thank you for your consideration.

23.0484.03001

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2197

Introduced by

Senator Krebsbach

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 the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation;
3 ~~and to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.~~

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

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

7 **Re-energize North Dakota scholarship.**

- 8 1. The state board of higher education may award scholarships for the purpose of
- 9 recruiting and retraining individuals to work in the North Dakota oil and gas industry.
- 10 2. An applicant is eligible for the re-energize North Dakota scholarship if the applicant ~~is~~
- 11 a resident of the state and:
 - 12 a. Is or was employed in the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas-producing county
 - 13 for a minimum of twelve months during the past ~~thirty-six~~twenty-four months; or
 - 14 b. Is an immediate family member of a current employee who has been employed in
 - 15 the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas-producing county for a minimum of
 - 16 twelve months and is enrolled in a face-to-face educational program.
- 17 3. Scholarships must be awarded in the eligibility priority order identified in subsection 2.
- 18 4. The scholarship recipient must attend a qualifying educational program resulting in
- 19 attainment of a workforce training credential, certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's
- 20 degree, or master's degree. The educational program must be provided at an
- 21 institution ~~under the control of the state board~~ of higher education in North Dakota.
- 22 5. After the initial award, recipients must remain a resident of the state and maintain
- 23 academic progress in the eligible program according to program requirements to
- 24 continue receiving the re-energize North Dakota scholarship.

- 1 6. Scholarships may be awarded in the amount of up to one thousand five hundred
2 dollars per quarter, semester, or term. Individuals may receive combined awards
3 totaling no more than twelve thousand dollars and the combined award for all family
4 members associated with an individual employee in the oil and gas industry may not
5 exceed twenty-four thousand dollars. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged
6 each quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for tuition, fees, books,
7 and supplies required for the qualifying educational program.
- 8 7. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to administer
9 the re-energize North Dakota scholarship program.
- 10 8. For the purposes of this section, ~~an oil:~~
- 11 a. "Immediate family member" means a spouse or child.
- 12 b. "Oil and gas-producing county" means Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke,
13 Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Renville,
14 Slope, Stark, Ward, or Williams County.

15 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - FULL-TIME**
16 **EQUIVALENT POSITION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the
17 state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,125,000, or so much of the sum as
18 may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of awarding
19 re-energize North Dakota scholarships, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
20 June 30, 2025. Of the amount appropriated, the state board of higher education may use up to
21 \$125,000 for student financial assistance and scholarship programs coordination and
22 marketing. The state board of higher education is authorized one full-time equivalent position.

23 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 1 of this Act is effective through June 30, 2027,
24 and after that date is ineffective.

25 **SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

23.0484.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Krebsbach
February 6, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2197

- Page 1, line 10, after the second "applicant" insert "is a resident of the state and"
 - Page 1, line 12, replace "six" with "twelve"
 - Page 1, line 12, after "months" insert "during the past thirty-six months"
 - Page 1, line 13, remove "or former"
 - Page 1, line 13, replace "was" with "has been"
 - Page 1, line 15, replace "six" with "twelve"
 - Page 1, line 21, after "must" insert "remain a resident of the state and"
 - Page 2, line 1, replace "two thousand" with "one thousand five hundred"
 - Page 2, line 3, replace "sixteen" with "twelve"
 - Page 2, line 3, after "dollars" insert "and the combined award for all family members associated with an individual employee in the oil and gas industry may not exceed twenty-four thousand dollars"
 - Page 2, line 9, after the eighth underscored comma insert "McLean."
- Renumber accordingly

23.0484.03000

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2197

Introduced by

Senator Krebsbach

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 the re-energize North Dakota scholarship; to provide an appropriation;
3 and to provide an expiration date.

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

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

7 **Re-energize North Dakota scholarship.**

- 8 1. The state board of higher education may award scholarships for the purpose of
- 9 recruiting and retraining individuals to work in the North Dakota oil and gas industry.
- 10 2. An applicant is eligible for the re-energize North Dakota scholarship if the applicant is
- 11 a resident of the state and:
 - 12 a. Is or was employed in the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas-producing county
 - 13 for a minimum of twelve months during the past thirty-six months; or
 - 14 b. Is an immediate family member of a current employee who has been employed in
 - 15 the oil and gas industry in an oil and gas-producing county for a minimum of
 - 16 twelve months.
- 17 3. Scholarships must be awarded in the eligibility priority order identified in subsection 2.
- 18 4. The scholarship recipient must attend a qualifying educational program resulting in
- 19 attainment of a workforce training credential, certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's
- 20 degree, or master's degree. The educational program must be provided at an
- 21 institution under the control of the state board of higher education.
- 22 5. After the initial award, recipients must remain a resident of the state and maintain
- 23 academic progress in the eligible program according to program requirements to
- 24 continue receiving the re-energize North Dakota scholarship.

1 6. Scholarships may be awarded in the amount of up to one thousand five hundred
2 dollars per quarter, semester, or term. Individuals may receive combined awards
3 totaling no more than twelve thousand dollars and the combined award for all family
4 members associated with an individual employee in the oil and gas industry may not
5 exceed twenty-four thousand dollars. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged
6 each quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for tuition, fees, books,
7 and supplies required for the qualifying educational program.

8 7. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to administer
9 the re-energize North Dakota scholarship program.

10 8. For the purposes of this section, an oil and gas-producing county means Billings,
11 Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, McHenry, McKenzie,
12 McLean, Mountrail, Renville, Slope, Stark, Ward, or Williams County.

13 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - FULL-TIME**

14 **EQUIVALENT POSITION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the
15 state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,125,000, or so much of the sum as
16 may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of awarding
17 re-energize North Dakota scholarships, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
18 June 30, 2025. Of the amount appropriated, the state board of higher education may use up to
19 \$125,000 for student financial assistance and scholarship programs coordination and
20 marketing. The state board of higher education is authorized one full-time equivalent position.

21 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 1 of this Act is effective through June 30, 2027,
22 and after that date is ineffective.