



**NDSA-15-2021**

## **A Resolution in Support of HB 1380**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, HB 1380 outlines how the money from the legacy fund should be spent; and,

**WHEREAS**, the legacy fund was created in 2010 through funds from the 30 percent tax on natural resources with the intent of developing a fund to invest in different programs and initiatives across the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of January 2021, the total lifetime deposits into the fund had amassed a total of 6 billion dollars; and,

**WHEREAS**, HB 1380 would designate a portion of legacy fund earnings for the creation of an "economic diversification research fund" that would provide research grants to all institutions under the state board of higher education, "to stimulate economic activity across the state through innovation of new technology, concepts, and products; to promote job creation and career and wage growth; to enhance health care outcomes; and to provide experiential learning opportunities for students"; and,

**WHEREAS**, section 6 of the bill clarifies that HB 1380 would designate 4 percent of the funds transferred from the legacy fund earnings for the biennium would be for the "economic diversification research fund"; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional research dollars would give NDUS students more opportunities to conduct graduate and undergraduate research; and,

**WHEREAS**, conducting research strengthens students' competitive advantage both in the job market and in the academic world if they wish to pursue additional education; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA supports the use of the legacy fund to better and improve the student experience at all NDUS institutions across the state; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Dakota Student Association supports HB 1380 as it promotes the utilization of legacy fund earnings for the advancement of higher education in North Dakota through research grants for NDUS institutions.

*Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, February 20th, 2021.*