



NDSA-19-2021

## A Resolution Opposing an Amendment to SB 2030

**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**, NDSA works to increase academic and financial opportunities for higher education students throughout the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, SB 2030 allocates funding to the Challenge Fund Grant, which encourages higher education to seek donations from private donors through a two-for-one match program where for every \$2 a donor gives, the state will provide the institution with \$1, which provides students with increased access to academic opportunities through scholarships and cutting-edge classroom technology; and,

**WHEREAS**, an amendment has been proposed to SB 2030 that would forfeit an institution's right to challenge fund grants if they have any ties to organizations that promote or perform abortions, unless that abortion is necessary to prevent a woman's death, and the institutions in question may not participate or sponsor any program producing, distributing, publishing, disseminating, endorsing, or approving materials of any type or from any organization, that between normal childbirth and abortion, do not give preference, encouragement, and support to normal childbirth<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA is not taking a stance on the issue of abortion and unreservedly protects the right of individual NDUS students to take their own stance on the issue; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA believes that the North Dakota State Legislature should not attach divisive political stances to an unrelated educational bill to further a political agenda; and,

**WHEREAS**, if this amendment were to pass and if institutions were unable to meet its stipulations because of academic ties (school of medicine, healthcare providers, etc.), students would be unfairly affected, both financially and educationally, by a political rider bill; and,

**WHEREAS**, this sets a dangerous precedent of infringing upon academic and intellectual freedom by requiring institutions to advance partisan political beliefs in order to obtain necessary and irreplaceable academic funding; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the NDSA urges the North Dakota State Legislature to remove the amendment to SB 2030 that would attach an abortion stance to Challenge Fund Grant funding; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/documents/21-0144-04000.pdf>



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NDSA will not support SB 2030 unless the bill is amended to no longer include the specified amendment.

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