



NDSA-02-2425

A Resolution in Support of Appropriating State Funds for the Improvement of On-Campus Housing

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, on-campus housing refers to the residence halls and apartments that are auxiliaries of individual NDUS institutions; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of the 11 NDUS colleges and universities requires students to live in on-campus housing throughout their first year; and¹,

WHEREAS, most institutions have four main problems with campus housing: deferred maintenance, building capacity, building security, and students' housing needs; and,

WHEREAS, many of the on-campus residence halls provided at NDUS institutions were built during the 1960s and 1970s; and,

WHEREAS, since these residence halls were constructed, inflation over the last half-century has decreased the value of the dollar by almost 1,000%; and,

WHEREAS, these residence halls were all bonded, which can take up to 50 years to pay off, putting financial strain on the institutions and their auxiliaries; and²,

WHEREAS, these bonds pass the cost of renovation and repairs onto the students and thereby increases the cost of attendance regardless of a tuition freeze; and,

WHEREAS, NDUS institutions have renovated their residence halls over time, such as transitioning residence halls from traditional-style residence halls to a suite-style which decreases capacity of the building; and,

WHEREAS, these changes reflect the changing housing needs of students since the construction of these residence halls; and,

WHEREAS, many of the NDUS residence halls have little to no security measures other than locked doors, and these residence halls have fewer cameras compared to academic buildings, posing a significant security risk for students who reside in these residence halls; and,

WHEREAS, by the year 2031, approximately 71% of jobs in North Dakota will require some

¹ This is under normal circumstances, all NDUS institutions have a process in place to withdraw from a housing contract under extenuating circumstances or withdrawal from an NDUS institution.

² Erica Bucholz, Vice President for Business Affairs, VCSU.



additional form of higher education such as a two-year or four-year degree; and³,

WHEREAS, if the state of North Dakota desires an increase in student enrollment within the NDUS, but also retain these students in North Dakota after graduation in the state's workforce, then on-campus housing for students needs to be improved, especially when students are required to live in this housing their first year as a student; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA supports the NDUS and the North Dakota Legislature in appropriating funds specifically to improve or replace these buildings to meet the needs of the NDUS student body.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly Saturday,
October 26th, 2024*

³ Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.