



October 30, 2024

Dear North Dakota Voter,

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students. As a leading advocate on student welfare in the state of North Dakota, the NDSA focuses on issues of higher education that enhance the overall student experience and support the development of the future skilled workforce.

To achieve these objectives, the NDSA stays informed on current topics that affect higher education students. With this commitment in mind, the NDSA Executive Team and General Assembly have discussed Measure 4 and the potential negative effects that it could have on the students within the North Dakota University System (NDUS).

The NDSA General Assembly met on October 26th to discuss the potential impacts of a proposed decrease in North Dakota 2025-2027 Biennium budget, totaling approximately 3.15 billion dollars (ND Tax Commissioner). This reduction would significantly challenge the ability of the NDUS to continue to provide quality services and offer excellent higher education.

The NDSA has previously collaborated with the NDUS in moving forward with its Envision 2035 initiative which aims to improve the quality of higher education and prepare NDUS students for the workforce, with a focus on emerging technologies and retaining students in North Dakota. To achieve these goals, continued increases in funding are essential. Without a precise plan to address the \$3.15 billion deficit, both the NDUS and NDSA face significant uncertainty in planning for the next biennium given the result of this initiated ballot measure and its consequences.

The NDSA Executive Team concluded that it is not feasible for the NDUS and all 11 institutions to operate effectively with the large constraints it would face if Measure 4 is passed, given the current challenges in funding, resources, and infrastructure. With the proposed reduction, it would be difficult for the state of North Dakota to appropriate funds for Higher Education as the state would have to continue to prioritize funding essential infrastructure and public services such as law enforcement, fire departments, and K-12 education. The decrease in funding would severely limit the ability of these institutions to maintain quality education and student services, potentially leading to increased tuition costs, reductions in academic programs, and a diminished ability to support students' needs. This in turn could have a severe impact on the retention of higher education graduates in the state of North Dakota.

The NDSA would like to thank the voters of North Dakota for recognizing our concerns as students. We respectfully ask you to consider voting "NO" on Measure 4 as its approval could have a significant impact on the approximately 45,000 students and 9,000 (Higher Education Task Force Report) staff and faculty in the North Dakota University System.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Sammi J. Weber in black ink.

Sammi J. Weber

President of the North
Dakota Student Association

Handwritten signature of Carter Gill in black ink.

Carter Gill

NDSA Vice President of
Governmental Affairs

Handwritten signature of Max Eriksrud in black ink.

Max Eriksrud

State Board of Higher
Education, Student Member