



NDSA-22-2425

A Resolution in Opposition to HB 1273: The Prohibition of a Policy, Order, or Ordinance That Limits Free Speech

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, during the 69th North Dakota Legislative Biennium, the state legislature introduced HB 1273 which prohibits policies, orders, and ordinances that target hate crime ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA is committed to protecting the rights and safety of all NDUS students; and,

WHEREAS, the prohibition of anything that targets hate crime ordinances negatively impacts our most vulnerable student populations as hate crime ordinances almost exclusively targets those in minority groups from race/ethnicity/ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, and disability; and,

WHEREAS, according to a 2023 report from the U.S. Department of Justice, there were 11,862 reported incidents of hate crimes in the United States where the motivations for these crimes were motivated by hateful biases towards their victims; and,

WHEREAS, prohibiting these policies has the potential to eliminate any way for institutions of higher education from reporting these instances of hate crimes; and,

WHEREAS, the elimination of anything that targets hate crime ordinances can and will be seen by those who wish to seek harm towards our vulnerable student populations as permission by the state to do so; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA opposes the potential of putting our most vulnerable populations in harm's way; and,

WHEREAS, multiple NDUS institutions have developed student codes of conduct which include dissuasions of creations of hostile environments, encompassing harassment towards specific racial identities, religions, and other marginalized groups; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA opposes HB 1273.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly
Saturday, January 25th, 2025*