



NDSA-27-2425

## **A Resolution in Support of SB 2003: Funding for the North Dakota University System for the 25-27 Biennium**

<sup>1</sup>**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

<sup>2</sup>**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,

<sup>3</sup>**WHEREAS**, during the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, legislators have proposed SB 2003, which provides funding for the North Dakota University System, and North Dakota's eleven university campuses; and,

<sup>4</sup>**WHEREAS**, included in SB 2003, aside from funding for the eleven college campuses, there is proposed allocations of 12 million dollars for a workforce innovation fund, 25 million dollars for the North Dakota Challenge Grant, 31 million dollars for student financial assistance programs, 17 million dollars for Academic and CTE scholarships, approximately 300,000 dollars for student mental health programs, as well as funding for a variety of other grants, scholarships and programs; and,

<sup>5</sup>**WHEREAS**, all the above programs significantly benefit students across North Dakota, from providing tens of millions of dollars in scholarships to providing research dollars for students to conduct research, to funding for much needed services such as mental health; and,

<sup>6</sup>**WHEREAS**, during the 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative assemblies, the NDSA supported the Challenge grant, passing resolutions [NDSA-12-2021](#) and [NDSA-07-2223](#), supporting the respective bills that funded the Challenge Grant; and,

<sup>7</sup>**WHEREAS**, during the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the ND Legislature allocated 11.5 million dollars for the Challenge Grant, and during the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the ND Legislature allocated 20 million dollars for the Challenge Grant; and,

<sup>8</sup>**WHEREAS**, the Challenge Grant has yielded increased donations for student scholarships across the State of North Dakota, and over the years, has greatly increased the affordability of attending Higher Education within the State of North Dakota, with the Challenge Grant appealing to donors, and benefiting students; and,

<sup>9</sup>**WHEREAS**, the scholarships and grants in SB 2003 have greatly contributed to the affordability of attending college in North Dakota, incentivizing in state students to stay in North Dakota for their education, in addition to appealing to out of state students as well; so,

<sup>1</sup>**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the NDSA supports SB 2003, funding for the institutions of Higher Education, and funding for the scholarships, grants and programs associated with SB 2003, including the Challenge Grant, the Workforce Innovation Grant, and the student mental health program; and,

<sup>2</sup>**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NDSA would also support increased funding for the North Dakota Challenge Grant to 50 million dollars, in alignment with NDUS and Governor requests; and,



<sup>3</sup>**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHEST RESOLVED**, the NDSA supports a 1:1 dollar match for Challenge Grant Funding for institutions of higher education, excluding the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly  
Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025*