



NDSA-16-1819

A Resolution in Support of 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, Senate Bill 2320, as originally proposed, would place burdensome limitations on the ability of faculty to exercise their right to free speech in the classroom; and,

WHEREAS, the original bill is unclear as to where the financial burden of security costs for invited guest speakers lies; and,

WHEREAS, the definition of student-on-student harassment as proposed in the original version of the bill would significantly complicate the ability for institutions to act during a period of escalation and early intervention; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2320, as originally proposed, would open up the NDUS to unlimited liability and meritless lawsuits; and,

WHEREAS, the State Senate amended SB 2320 to remove these and other issues that would adversely affect the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, the amended bill calls upon the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to update its free speech policy, which has not been updated since 1984, in order to address some of the concerns precipitating SB 2320; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2320, as amended, supports the protection of free speech rights without imposing heavy burdens upon the NDUS and its 11 member institutions; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NDSA supports SB 2320 as amended and approved by the North Dakota State Senate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA will never support the originally proposed version of SB 2320; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA fully supports the right of students and faculty to practice free speech.