

## HCR 3052

Higher Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Chairman Sanford and members of the committee. The 2015 House Concurrent Resolution 3052 requested a report from the North Dakota University System on institution policies and procedures regarding sexual assault and supports and services to those affected by sexual assault.

NDUS institutions have developed and are providing a comprehensive set of resources to individuals affected by sexual assault and harassment. This is part of their effort to comply with on Title IX compliance promulgated by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

NDUS institutions have updated and are updating policies outlining what constitutes sexual assault. These policies define important concepts such as consent, coercion, incapacitation, harassment, and misconduct to outline exactly what situations and acts constitute sexual assault. When students arrive on campus, they participate in mandatory awareness and prevention programs to learn how to identify potential sexual assaults, how to intervene as a bystander, and how to report assaults to institution officials. Institution employees also receive training on their responsibilities to observe, prevent, and report sexual misconduct. There are additional workshops and training programs available for those interested in being more involved in the awareness and prevention of sexual assault.

Institutions also have a variety of resources to offer to students and employees affected by sexual assault. There are reporting structures and institutional processes that allow institutions to investigate and hold individuals accountable for sexual misconduct. Institutions also offer affected

individuals with services such as escorts on campus, the issuance of no-contact orders prohibiting contact between the individuals involved in alleged misconduct, the adjustment of individuals' campus housing or class schedules, and the provision of confidential counseling services and academic support services.

The NDUS and its institutions take seriously their responsibility to provide a safe and effective learning and working environment. This is demonstrated by a firm commitment to raising awareness, fostering prevention and intervention, and providing support services for sexual assault and misconduct. For example, NDUS has organized a statewide Title IX workshop on February 17 & 18. All NDUS campuses, private, and tribal colleges are invited to attend.

Thank you.