

**2015 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2162**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162  
1/21/2015  
22270

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Donald Mueller



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide an appropriation.

## Minutes:

Attach #1: Testimony by Susan Peterson  
Attach #2: Form with signatures supporting SB 2162  
Attach #3: Letter from Psychology and Addiction Studies Club at MSU

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** provided overview of SB 2162. It comes from the interest of Minot State University social work and addiction counselor students, interested in loan repayment. Discussed other loan repayments, and wanted to do the same framework as other fields; adds social workers and licensed addiction counselors. It comes to a maximum loan repayment of \$6,000 per year, and an individual cannot be awarded more than \$30,000. The guideline they have to be in areas of need, western part of the state for example, reservations.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** asked when Legislative Council wrote the bill, was it intentional that it was State Department of health rather than the health council, because the state health council administers the other loan repayment programs that we have.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** indicated that is probably an oversight. It should be the same funding source, same people who run it.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** asked who prepared the bill.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** doesn't know

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that potential amendment page 1, line 12, line 24 for amendment, page 2, line 4.

**Senator Warner** asked on page 1, line 18, have graduated from an accredited institution in this state. Most of the other loan repayment programs are not within the state. Why only North Dakota educated students, like Concordia Minnesota?

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** the thought was students being educated here in North Dakota feel they should take advantage of the refunding from the state and not compete with students from other areas in the country. Line 19, page 1, effective 2009, perhaps the intent was to go backwards, but not sure if that is what we want to do.

**Chairman Judy Lee** discussed Minnesota students coming into North Dakota that will work. Deserves more discussion.

**Senator Dever** line 22, "addition counselor" should state "addiction counselor".

**Chairman Judy Lee** asked the chronological order on first come first serve instead of the quality of the applicant, on Page 2, line 4.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** indicated the bill does state that. Assuming there is going to be a lot of competition for this funding, so maybe it will get the applications in quicker.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated the other question she had was that it states they had to be employed by state or political subdivision. We have private providers who also have strong needs because of workforce issues, and if they are serving in an underserved area but they are working for private provider, they won't be qualified. Is that the intent?

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** stated research they did and noticed is that is where the need lies with this group of folks, but would not oppose to expand where they are employed.

**Chairman Judy Lee** as long as they are working in an underserved area, we may want to open it up to private providers particularly since one of our other bills is talking about vouchers which would allow not only some client choice but some ease in reaching folks outside the Human Service Center areas.

**Senator Dever** stated subsection 4, page 2, maximum loan repayment of \$6,000 per year, maximum of 30,000 total. Appropriation is 360,000 for the coming biennium. Are you intending that this be committed to 5 years out.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** loan repayment program would continue like the dentists, optometrists, and the other fields where they are taking advantage of the loan repayment programs that are in place already.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicating that you are getting 5 years to finish. I don't know if the other programs support the standard number of years to complete the program.

**Senator Warner** asked about chronological order question to Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. How are the proposals - do you look at them at once, and in term of dollars, once you make a commitment, you obligate the that money for the entire term out of the current appropriation so you don't look at future appropriations to be a made a commitment that the council has made..

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** yes. The way it works now, application is submitted, the application deadline may vary because we have the programs are all separate in different

sections for the different vocations. Each one has its own uniqueness in how it is submitted and applied for. They submit application to health department, and right now they contract out the review of those to the Center for Rural Health, then commit for the current appropriation, then next time you got a new appropriation you could bring on some new people. Sometimes the appropriation is split. We don't have any programs that are longer than 4 years.

**Senator Warner** indicated that once we have made a commitment, it is guaranteed through the entire process.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** indicated that is correct.

**Senator Dever** asked for clarification, \$360,000; 6,000 would do 60 students, but \$30,000 would represent 12. This needs to be clear before we send the bill forward.

End V. Chairman Oley Larsen testimony

(11:43 on hold)

(15:00 begin)

**Chairman Judy Lee** provided review to Minot State University students who just arrived at the hearing (late due to bad roads). Explanation end 16:52

**Susan Peterson**, testified IN FAVOR of SB 2162 (attach #1). (17:37-20:41)

Ms. Peterson also provided form with signatures of those supporting SB 2162 (attach #2)

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** you assumed the bill all of your students would have loans through Bank of North Dakota and not other institutions?

**Ms. Peterson** is assuming that is for ease of payment. Most have through Bank of North Dakota. Some are on the GI bill and other avenues also.

**Senator Axness**, the average debt is \$30,000. This bill, if passed, would eliminate the debt.

**Ms. Peterson** indicated yes, and stated social workers don't get paid that well.

**Senator Dever** are they intending to stay in the state. To repay a loan afterwards rather than scholarship up front is to entice them to stay in the state.

**Ms. Peterson** answered correct. A survey was conducted at Minot State University, where 85% wanted to stay in North Dakota. 77% of those 85% said loan repayment would entice them to stay.

**Chairman Judy Lee** explained situation with a friend, who 15 grandchildren, set up a fund so these children will have college support. They have to work, take out loans, if no one is arrested for certain reasons, grandpa will do repayment program. He recognizes the importance. Chairman Judy Lee thinks this there is merit to this. As an additional supplement, if somebody wants to be a welder and they don't want to be a social worker,

so they go for 2 year program too, he will pay for that as well. Then let's say that they have the opportunity to purchase a business, grandpa will pay what was originally allocated toward that business for that child. The point is, I believe you have to have an investment in itself. Chairman Judy Lee stated that she doesn't support total reimbursement, but spread the money further, and have investment that is expected of a hard working student.

**Senator Dever** depending on interpretation, 12 students or 60 students. How many graduate from MSU or other colleges?

**Ms. Peterson** can't speak for other colleges, last year there were 60 graduates from MSU, including offsite locations.

**Kari Ozuna** spoke in FAVOR of SB 2162. She's on GI bill. (26:50-28.54). She indicated this would provide relief and would help entice students to stay in North Dakota.

**Senator Dever** stated that he went to school on GI Bill. If this was available, and you knew that you could borrow money and be repaid, would you be inclined to borrow it?

**Ms. Ozuna** indicated that the GI bill is a great benefit, so she would choose not to participate in this program.

**Senator Dever** asked if they knew this was available, would they be less responsible in managing their money.

**Ms. Ozuna** indicated that could be any student. This is just not something they are counting on, this would be the extra bonus thing and helps stay in North Dakota, work for the population.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated in a different bill, because of the need for licensed addiction counselors, is a system of providing low interest loans for that last year because LAC's need 1,400 hours of unpaid internship, and are technically not a college student in those circumstances, so they need help during internship.

**Kaelel Knoell** testified IN FAVOR of SB 2162. She stated that she is planning to go to University of Mary next year to go into social work. One thing she wants to do with her degree is for juvenile girls. If not in the state, then asked if she would get the benefit.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated that you might be someone who benefit depending on how it is set up, not only state and county employees benefiting. You think it would be advantageous to expand beyond this.

**Ms. Knoell** indicated yes. Another concern is the first-come, first-serve part. If someone writes a poorly written paper to you and they are the first to send it in, and someone writes a passionate paper but is later, they should be more deserving than the first-in. Having a deadline based on the essays and the academics that the individual went through to get their degree is better criteria for repayment.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** do you think it would be appropriate to have \$180,000 per year over 2 years that we divide by applicants or give each one by \$6,000?

**Ms. Knoell** indicated yes, that dividing it up would be fair.

**Senator Dever** indicated that University of Mary would qualify since it is still in North Dakota, even though it is a private school.

**Ms. Peterson** (MSU) added two thoughts. Social work also has an unpaid internship, granted it does not require as many hours as licensed addiction counselors. MSU requires 465 hours in a semester. Other schools are up to 490. Also, a concern about students getting the loans and using them for fun, or grants, our students 85%-90% social work students work 20-40 hours a week. They are hardworking students helping them through school.

**Chairman Judy Lee** asked about the unpaid internship, are they enrolled as a student?

**Ms. Peterson** indicated they are.

**Senator Dever** is that internship set by board or school?

**Ms. Peterson** indicated that the council on social work education requires that. An individual school could establish more.

**Senator Dever** indicated LAC is 1400.

**Kayla Papka**, spoke IN FAVOR of SB 2162. She attends MSU at Bismarck campus. She asked a questions: If you graduate from MSU, move out of state and get your master's degree, and then come back to North Dakota. Would you still qualify for this program?

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** indicated if money is available, they are not carved out and can indeed apply for loan forgiveness program.

**Senator Dever** indicated have graduated from an accredited institution of higher education in this state on or after July 1, 2009, so she would qualify.

OPPOSITION TO SB 2162

No opposed testimony

NEUTRAL TO SB 2162

No neutral testimony

Closed Hearing.

Additional written testimony provided by Psychology and Addiction Studies Club at Minot State University (Attach #3).

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162  
1/21/2015  
22316

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Donald Mueller



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide an appropriation.

## Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

These are minutes from committee work January 21, 2015

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated that we need to discuss how we feel about the bill in informal terms after making proposed changes. We need to talk about various categories of things to talk about. Do we want to have them only be, for example, on page 1, line 18, only be a graduate of a North Dakota institution.

**Senator Warner** indicated that this is a workforce bill; we don't care where they were educated.

**Senator Dever** indicated that dentists doesn't say that because we don't have a dental school.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that we don't make them come back either, which she is uncomfortable with.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated that the only comparison would be physician loan repayment program, but that doesn't have anything about graduating from UND medical school. Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. indicated that he needed to correct something he said earlier. Senator Warner had asked whether we committed money from either bienniums. What we do is when we make a contract with somebody for a four year repayment schedule, that second biennium money, the department provides a list to the appropriations committee for the money that has been committed. Then the Appropriations committee has to re-appropriate that money and theoretically they could cut it off because the contracts have a clause that states "if money is available."

**Senator Warner** stated that would double the amount of the number of possible claimants to the money because we can appropriate the entire amount for the first 2 years rather than 4.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** yes, he would suggest that we make it 4 years to make it more manageable on a biennial basis instead of 5 year commitment. This is consistent with what we do now. Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. also suggested cutting it back to \$24,000.

**Chairman Judy Lee** next discussed page 2, section 4, at the top,

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** asked what is the percentage that the doctors - there bill is not totally paid either. What is the percentage so we can put that in perspective?

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that the vets and dentists and optometrists get the difference between in state and out of state tuition, which makes a difference on what university they go to. That's a grant.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated that purely on the loan repayment issue, we see the physicians and vets and dentists have \$200,000 and \$300,000 in loans, so \$80,000 may pay 25% to one-third. We require them to submit a list of loans, where they owe the money, and if they are current, as we don't give them scholarships if they have lapsed.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that their income potential is significantly greater, and facilities that are hiring these physicians pay back as much as all the student debt to get them to come there in the first place.

**Senator Warner** asked Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. regarding reimbursing to the bank or to the recipient?

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** doesn't know. Seems like they make the payment to the individual, but then it may be income, so perhaps to loan agent.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated that when the committee talked about the loan repayment component of the out-of-state professional schools last time, the program was being set up through the Bank of North Dakota, and would have been directly there to assure the loan payments were being made to the lender.

**Senator Warner** asked if it works regardless if different lender to start with.

**Chairman Judy Lee** answered that the loans were going to be set up to be run through the Bank of North Dakota.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated that we ought not to say the Bank of North Dakota, some may finance others. If they have a written loan, it may be family member, and that works. **Chairman Judy Lee** recommended the word "lender." Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. recommended that V. Chairman Oley Larsen go to Legislative Council and ask them to rewrite this based on the loan repayment programs we currently have. They need to

change the language from the Department of Health to the Health Council and the other things as well, assuming we want to make that consistent with the other programs.

**Senator Warner** stated one other issue, on page 2, line 4, applications in chronological order. Can we put in health council will determine rules?

**Senator Dever** do you have to go through administrative rules process

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** thinks it is possible to develop rules. Don't want to put that burden on the health council; I'd rather put something in here so they can develop the application based on what they've done in the past. Developing rules could add 6 months to the process.

**Senator Warner** stated so we can just put in "shall develop application process."

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** confirmed, they develop an application process, and then cutoff date, they submit by then, and then take everybody who submitted by then rather than first come, first serve.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated moving above that, subsection 4, should we look at making this a 4 year deal, which would make it \$24,000. Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. indicated correct.

**Senator Dever** \$36,000 in this biennium would be a four year commitment subject to ongoing approval. Does that have to be continued in Appropriations? Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. indicated that it gets appropriated each time.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** what the department does now, with outstanding commitments, they give a list to appropriations committee so appropriations know what has been committed tentatively and can add for the next ones.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated if the money isn't there, they can't obligate a future legislative year. Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. indicated that's never been a problem.

**Senator Dever** stated he thinks the term continued appropriation applies where you allow them to accept donations and build a fund.

**Senator Warner** indicated it is used for fees.

**Chairman Judy Lee** said V. Chairman Oley Larsen will chat with Legislative Council. In review, there will be a variety of changes to say "Health Council" since they do the other scholarship programs. On line 18 page 1 we would delete "in this state". On line 21, do we want to leave it employed by the department or counties; Chairman Judy Lee would favor allowing them to be private providers as well.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** suggested employed fulltime in the state, not necessarily for department or county.

**Chairman Judy Lee** continued geographic area as underserved? It could be urban area.

**Senator Warner** stated in the very nature of social work, they work with economic need.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** asked on page 1, line 19, that date - do we want to change that to present? **Chairman Judy Lee** do we need a date at all. **Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** indicated probably not. **Chairman Judy Lee** asked if there is consensus to remove the date. **V. Chairman Oley Larsen** will ask what's important about that date.

**Senator Warner** asked Senator Howard Anderson, Jr. how many do we commit to in the 1<sup>st</sup> biennium, the entire appropriated in the first biennium and then when the second biennium comes around, you have a cost to continue. So you would have \$150,000 to make whole that first group, equal size in next biennium. You end up having to committing to 1 ½ cohorts going forward.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> biennium, if you spent \$360k at \$6000, you would have money for 30 people. You would have to come back in second biennium and would have to ask for funds for new people, then 30 the next biennium if doing it again. Do you want to go with 30 right away, half, less.

**Senator Warner** asked if we should prioritize the money full amount or split between the applicants. How do we create a point system for qualifications versus need, way to prioritize to greatest need.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated with the dentists, the health council and 2 boards will develop list of underserved areas. If those areas fell on the list and those people wanted to work there, we would divide money across applicants who submitted their application by the deadline date, unless we say set dollar.

**Chairman Judy Lee** how about if we start with 15 students and see the demand, rather than 30.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** agreed, 15 per year, so that would be 30 for 2 years, and that would spend the \$360,000, would have a stair step up after the first two years.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that she doesn't want to short change anyone but perhaps we should ease into the program.

**Senator Warner** indicated that he had a sense from the students that came down from Minot State University that they expected all 60 of their graduates to qualify and be fully funded.

**Chairman Judy Lee** not interested in full payment.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated we haven't really asked the people in the Department of Health who manage these programs, so once amendment is drafted, we should get feedback from Department of Health.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that **V. Chairman Oley Larsen** could talk with person who drafted bill, work with the Health Department. We can then work from this next week.

**Senator Warner** stated his trust in the health council as they know what they are doing.

**Senator Axness** also said the word "addiction" versus "addition" needs to be changed.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** asked if we are alright with the 6000 still?

**Chairman Judy Lee** asked what the cost of the program at Minot State University?

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** indicated in testimony, someone said the average was \$30,000 debt.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** we are not paying them to go to school, we are paying them to go to work.

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162  
2/2/2015  
23016

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide an appropriation.

## Minutes:

Attach #1: Proposed Amendment

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** provided a copy of the proposed amendment, inline with the SB 2162 bill. (attach #1) V. Chairman Oley Larsen went through the bill, as proposed amended. Chairman Judy Lee discussed section 6, looking for consistence in how loan repayment. Assign Femi to check with Arvy Smith in Department of Health to ensure the repayment process is consistent with other loan repayment plans. V. Chairman Oley Larsen continued his review of attach #1. (end 7:05)

**Senator Dever** asked about the removal of the date on or after July 1, 2009 makes the program eligible for anybody who graduated whenever who has outstanding debts.

**Chairman Judy Lee** asked the reason why 2009. V. Chairman Oley Larsen indicated it may have been when the program started at Minot State University.

**Senator Axness** indicated that it was never fully stated, but it was the program starting at Minot State University. There are other colleges as well.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** stated that when talking to this group, he brought to their attention that state did \$40,000,000 worth of loan repayments, and there was some data where folks signed up for scholarship repayment, not necessarily for their group. They would accept 59 applicants, only 49 signed up, and a few others dropped out. He did indicate there is funding out there and available. As testimony unfolded and other programs came to light, it may be them understanding what's already available.

**Chairman Judy Lee** asked if there are other programs available?

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** answered maybe not specific for addiction counselors, but there are other fields that are available. He gave an example of when he was teaching of loan forgiveness for instructors.

**Senator Howard Anderson, Jr.** stated that when his wife graduated, she got loan forgiveness through the Department of Education. Board of nursing does have loan forgiveness.

**Chairman Judy Lee** stated that received a chart from the Department of Health in regards to loan repayments, and it may be helpful to know what other programs there are to avoid duplication. If there are other opportunities to have financial support, maybe we need to look at putting the money elsewhere.

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2162  
2/3/2015  
23043

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Donald Mueller*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide an appropriation.

## Minutes:

No attachments

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** recapped with MSU students for addiction counselors, then grew to social workers, then first class and transition to second class. They testified. During that process, from the house side and also interim committee, there are loan repayments for additional groups, not just for addiction counselors. The group did indicate the other is a better route, but wanted to go through the process and experience the learning process. The second group was aware of the other legislation, so there are other avenues.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** moved DO NOT PASS for SB 2162. The motion was seconded by **Senator Dever**.

### Discussion

**Senator Warner** indicated there were errors in the bill, and asked if we need to fix the bill in case it would pass on the floor.

**Chairman Judy Lee** indicated that it likely will not go forward.

**Senator Dever** if it did pass, it will go to appropriations, and it would likely be killed there.

### Roll Call Votes

6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried to DO NOT PASS SB 2162.

**V. Chairman Oley Larsen** will carry the bill.

Date: 12/03 2015  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2162

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Larson Seconded By Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee (Chairman)	✓		Senator Tyler Axness	✓	
Senator Oley Larson (V-Chair)	✓		Senator John M. Warner	✓	
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	✓				
Senator Dick Dever	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Larson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2162: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2015 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2162**

Attach # 1  
SB2162  
01/21/2015  
J# ~~0000~~ 22270

Testimony for S.B. 2162

A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 23-01-42 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide and appropriation.

Good morning committee members, my name is Susan Peterson and I am a social worker and professor at Minot State University. I teach a policy class in which students are required to develop a policy advocacy project. In developing their project, students found there is a significant need for social workers and addiction counselors in North Dakota. Students discovered there have been unfilled or under-filled social work and addiction counseling positions in the state and that clients have been put on waiting lists to see professionals. Additionally, students determined that a loan forgiveness program would help offset student loans; the lower wages paid to social workers and addiction counselors; and, the increased cost of living within the state. As part of the process, students enlisted the aid of Senator Larsen for assistance in pursuing their project.

As a social worker, I support S. B. 2162 to help fill unmet human service needs in North Dakota.

I would like to address three areas in support of this bill:

- Due to **population growth** in North Dakota there is/are:
  1. an increased need for social workers at **all** levels of licensure, addiction counselors and client access to services;
    - There has been a waiting period for up to two weeks or longer for clients to receive services and there is a lack access to services
    - In response to wait periods, agencies are requiring workers to “do more with less”
  2. unfilled social service positions that have been open for six months or longer;
  3. a need to offset the high cost of living
- There is need for **more social workers and addictions counselors**, especially in the underserved and oil-impacted regions in North Dakota.
  1. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected percent change in employment from 2012 to 2022 for social workers is 19% and for addiction counselors is 31% The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.
  2. Nationally, 39,000 addiction and social work positions are needed each year to keep up with the demand.\*
  2. 173 social workers were licensed this past year.\*\*
  3. 63 addiction counselors did not renew their licenses this past year.
- Social workers and addiction counselors nationally receive an **average wage** of \$39,000 per year and students nationally graduate with an **average loan debt** of \$30,000.
  1. A loan repayment program will reduce the loan debt of addiction counselors and social workers in lower paid entry level positions;

1.2

2. Loan forgiveness is a good recruitment and retention tool for workers in the state.
3. Other professional fields, such as medicine and teaching have loan forgiveness programs.

#### References

\*United States Department of Labor (n.d.). *Occupational outlook handbook*. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-and-behavioral-disorder-counselors.htm>

\*\*North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners

Attach#2 01/21/15  
 SB2162 J# 22270

## Proposal for Social Work/ Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness

<b>Proposal summary</b>	Our social work policy class is proposing loan forgiveness for social workers and addiction counselors. Would you sign in support of our legislative proposal?
<b>Purpose</b>	We, the undersigned, urge our leaders to act now to support social work/addiction counselor loan forgiveness.

**Please only sign proposal once**

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Antoine Poitras		1002 Beaman Dr #10 Hazen, ND 58545
Camille Harvey	Camille Harvey	222 1st Ave. NW Hazen, ND 58545
<del>Chris Harvey</del> Chris Harvey	<del>Chris Harvey</del>	222 1st Ave NW Hazen, ND 58545
KALPANA SAMMUGAM		218, DAKOTA HALL, MINOT, ND 58707
Elisabeth Derby	Elisabeth Derby	201 Dakota Hall, Minot, ND 58707
Lauren Parker	Lauren Parker	201 Dakota Hall, Minot, ND 58707
Hope Idahola		222 Dakota Hall, Minot, ND 58707

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Please only sign proposal once

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Chelsea Holmstrom	Chelsea Holmstrom	500 Univ. COOK Hall 210 Minot, ND
Kayla Kircher	Kayla Kircher	
Roberta Jespersen	Roberta Jespersen	PO Box 458 Velva ND 58790
Kayla Hakelish	Kayla Hakelish	500 Univ. Ave Laramer 308 A, Minot, ND 58707
Lean Mack	Lean Mack	816 10th Ave. NW Apt 104, Minot, ND 58703
Sheldon Standish	Sheldon Standish	520 Univ. McCulloch Hall 119 Minot, ND
James Morrison	James Morrison	1423 Cotton Wood Ave Minot ND 58701
Amy Thull	Amy Thull	1221 69th St N Granville ND 58741
Sadie Sorley	Sadie Sorley	Pioneer Hall Apt. 1 Minot, ND 58701
ADAM SIMONSON	Adam Simonson	3 MAIN street #409 MINOT ND 58701
Teal Allard	Teal Allard	235 3rd St SW Sully, ND 58785







# Proposal for Social Work/ Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness

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<b>Purpose</b>	We, the undersigned, urge our leaders to act now to support social work/addiction counselor loan forgiveness.

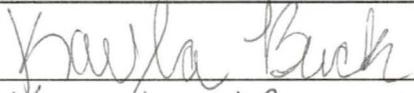
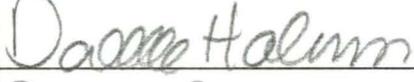
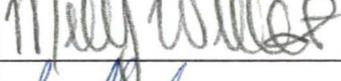
**Please only sign proposal once**

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Cameron Stone	<i>Cameron S. Stone</i>	705 Park St #7 Minot ND 58701
Jessica Demum	<i>Jessica Demum</i>	816 10th Ave NW Apt. 208 Minot, ND 58703
Bryan Phillips	<i>Bryan Phillips</i>	1113 9th St NW Minot, ND
Shyenne Schneider	<i>Shyenne Schneider</i>	710 4th St NW Minot, ND 58703
Jamie MacFarlane	<i>Jamie MacFarlane</i>	14 E University Ave Minot, ND
Amley Harmon	<i>A Harmon</i>	1600 Terrace Ct Minot ND 58703
Kayla Beck	<i>Kayla Beck</i>	708 Foxtail Dr. Minot, ND 58701
Kayla Torgerson	<i>Kayla Torgerson</i>	701 19th Ave SE Apt. 13 Minot ND 58701
DEVERA BOWLES	<i>Devera Bowles</i>	909 18th St NW Minot, ND 58703
Shae Rodriguez	<i>Shae Rodriguez</i>	13 1st Ave SW #305 Minot ND 58703
	<i>Jana Beck</i>	

## Proposal for Social Work/ Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness

<b>Proposal summary</b>	Our social work policy class is proposing loan forgiveness for social workers and addiction counselors. Would you sign in support of our legislative proposal?
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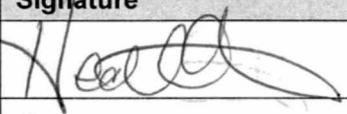
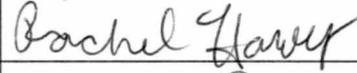
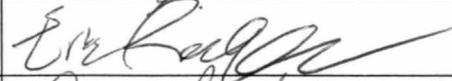
**Please only sign proposal once**

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Kayla Buck		1521 20th Ave W, Williston ND 58801
Karisa Martin		609 18th St NW, Minot ND 58703
Kellie Sink		1720 44th St. SE Minot ND, 58701
Ashley Burrows		500 university avenue west, ND 58707
Danielle Halvorson		5730 27th AVE SE, Minot ND 58701
Jordan Hughes		500 University Ave W Pioneer Hall 106 Minot ND 58707
Molly Willert		408 21st ST SW Minot, ND 58701
Logan Herauf		405 University ave. Minot, ND 58703
Rebecca Jackson		113 12th Ave NE Minot, ND 58703
Trina Bridgford		2164 Landmark Circle Minot ND 58703.
Daniel Johnson		623 10th St NE Minot ND 58703

## Proposal for Social Work/ Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness

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**Please only sign proposal once**

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Heather Meyer		14 W. Central Ave, Apt. B Minot, ND 58701
Rachel Harvey		500 University Ave. W. 218 Dakota Hall Minot, ND 58707
Susan Peterson		2808 6th St. SW #12 Minot, ND 58701
Danielle Keller		1403 Cottonwood Ave Minot, ND 58701
Derek C Beilke		500 University Ave W McCulloch
Jonah Wiggins		500 University Ave W McCulloch
Upile Marho		500 University Avenue, Dakota Hall. Minot, ND 58703
Uroosa Khalid		500 University Avenue, Cook Hall
Eric Kochholz		2017 Parkside Drive Minot ND 58701
Carli Bako		500 W University Ave W Minot ND 58701
Brooke Demonaske		500 University Ave W Minot, ND, 58701

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Holly Major	Holly Major	1108 2nd St SE Minot ND
Justine Italiano	J Italiano	2000 11 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW Minot, ND
Ivan Zettler	Ivan Zettler	917 10 <sup>th</sup> St NW Minot ND
Abonyi Victor	Abonyi	500 UNIT AVE W. Minot ND 58703
T Mitchell Kuygne	T Mitchell Kuygne	308 24 <sup>th</sup> St NW Minot ND 58703
Mitch Kerck	Mitch Kerck	2521 62 <sup>nd</sup> St NE Rugby
Carilla Keller	Carilla Keller	816 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW Minot ND 58703
Kelly Knudsen	K. Knudsen	425 Cedar Dr. Minot, ND 58703
Sierra Meredith	Sierra Meredith	120-2 Winding Way Minot, ND 58704
Uwesa Khalid	Uwesa Khalid	# COOK Hall, MSU, MINOT.
Laura Ericson	Laura Ericson	PO Box 1472 Minot, ND 58702
Tessa Haussecker	Tessa Haussecker	949 Delmar Ct. Minot ND 58703
Karis Reddick	Karis Reddick	949 Delmar Ct Minot ND 58703
Alix Herback	Alix Herback	441 5 <sup>th</sup> St NW Minot ND 58703

# Proposal for Social Work/ Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness

<b>Proposal summary</b>	Our social work policy class is proposing loan forgiveness for social workers and addiction counselors. Would you sign in support of our legislative proposal?
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Please only sign proposal once

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Alicia A. Lopez	<i>Alicia A. Lopez</i>	150 39th Ave. SE apt. 304 Minot, ND 58701
Jenelle Williams	<i>Jenelle Williams</i>	500 Univ. Ave. Campus Heights #27 <sup>Minot, ND</sup> 58707
Kaitlyn Lees	<i>Kaitlyn Lees</i>	441 5th St. NW Minot, ND 58703
Scott Gietzen	<i>Scott Gietzen</i>	Apt 310 Pioneer Hall Minot N.D. 58707
Cassie Olson	<i>Cassie Olson</i>	816 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW Apt. 208 Minot, ND 58703
Kelli Sem	<i>Kelli Sem</i>	5755 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW Ave Minot ND 58703
Michael Nordquist	<i>Michael Nordquist</i>	1618 Elmwood Dr SE Minot ND 58701
Yoshikazu Tashiro	<i>Yoshikazu Tashiro</i>	500 University W Ave. Minot - ND
Connor Hill	<i>Connor Hill</i>	500 University W Ave Minot, ND
Amanda Sansaver	<i>A Sansaver</i>	500 University Ave W., Minot, ND 58707
Brad Binger	<i>Brad Binger</i>	611 9th Ave NE Minot ND 58703

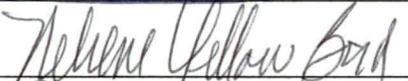




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<b>Purpose</b>	We, the undersigned, urge our leaders to act now to support social work/addiction counselor loan forgiveness.

Please only sign proposal once

Printed Name	Signature	Address
Mercedes A. Drechsel		612 1st ST. SE Minot, ND 58701
AJ Begay		500 University Ave. 58703
Nelrene Yellow Bird		2002 8th ST NW, MINOT, ND 58703
Carrie OZUNA		1721 26 <sup>th</sup> ST SW MINOT, ND 58701
Ethan A. Lopez		150 39 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minot, ND, 58701
Scott Trautman		150 39 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SE Minot, ND 58701

Attach #3 01/21/2015  
SB2162  
J#22270

Dear Senator Oley Larsen,

North Dakota is the fastest growing state in the nation which has both positive and negative aspects. With an increased population, also comes housing issues, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence; all issues that impact the social service system. In addition, with the growing aging population, human services are experiencing strain in not only serving this population, but also in filling social worker and addiction counselor positions due to retirements.

As future social workers and addiction counselors, we ask that you support the proposed bill for student loan forgiveness. The loan forgiveness proposal will help to meet the needs of citizens by attracting more social workers and addiction counselors in underserved areas of North Dakota. The employment of social workers and addiction counselors is expected to grow 19 to 31 percent between 2012 and 2022 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014). 77% of students polled at Minot State University indicated that loan forgiveness would be an incentive to stay and work in North Dakota. Maintaining social workers and addiction counselors in the state would help:

- fill the gap of unfilled human services positions (some positions have been open for six months or longer);
- alleviate waiting lists for clients (some clients are waiting up to 60 days for services);
- and,
- increased access to services.

The graduates of the North Dakota University System on average have a debt of \$30,000 at the end of a four year degree. The starting wage for a licensed social worker and a licensed addiction counselor is on average \$39,000 per year. We desire the citizens of the entire state to have access to human services and the high cost of living can be a disincentive in seeking employment in underserved areas. Therefore, we ask support for this bill that will entice graduates to remain working in the state, and offsetting student loan debt and higher costs of living. This bill includes the following criteria for Social Workers and Addiction Counselors:

- Up to \$6,000 of loan forgiveness per year (maximum of \$30,000);
- Graduated from an accredited North Dakota institution after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009;
- Employed full time by the state or a political subdivision of the state;
- and,
- Must work in a geographic area designated as underserved.

As a the Minot State University Psychology and Addiction Studies Club we whole heartily support this bill and the impact it can have for our club members and our peers within the Addiction Studies program.

Thank you for your consideration and support for this proposed bill. We anticipate the bill will move forward during this legislative session.

Sincerely,  
Psychology and Addiction Studies Club at MSU:

*Wise Evans*, PASC PRESIDENT  
*Nicole W.*, PASC VICE PRESIDENT

SB 2162 DUMMY AMENDMENT

Attach #1  
02/02/15  
SB 2162  
J# 23016

A BILL for an Act to create and enact section ~~23-01-4243-41.1-01~~ of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to loan repayment programs for social workers and addiction counselors; and to provide an appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1.** Section ~~23-01-4243-41.1-01~~ of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**43- 41.1-01. Loan Repayment -Social Worker -Addiction Counselor.**

1. The state department of healthhealth council shall administer a student loan repayment program for individuals who are:
  - a. Licensed as social workers in accordance with section 43-41-04; or
  - b. Licensed as addiction counselors in accordance with section 43-45-05.1.
2. The state department of healthhealth council in conjunction with the board of social work examiners and the board of addiction counseling examiners shall annually identify specific geographic areas as underserved. The identification must be based on the number of individuals needing services and the number of available full-time positions for licensed social workers and licensed addiction counselors in a specified area.
3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual must:
  - a. Have graduated from an accredited institution of higher education in this state on or after July 1, 2009;
  - b. Have an outstanding student loan;

c. Be employed full-time by in the state or a political subdivision of the state, as a social worker or ~~addition~~ addiction counselor, in a geographic area identified as underserved; and

b.d. Submit an application to the ~~state department of health~~ health council.

4. An eligible individual may receive a maximum loan repayment of six thousand dollars per year. An individual may not be awarded more than ~~thirty~~ twenty-four thousand dollars or loan repayment under this section.
5. The ~~state department of health~~ health council shall consider applications in chronological order and establish a cutoff date.
6. Upon verification from the individual's employer that the individual has completed a full year of employment in the ~~public sector of~~ state in an area identified as underserved, the ~~state department of health~~ health council shall distribute funds directly to the Bank of North Dakota as specified by the loan to repay outstanding loan principal balances for eligible applicants.

**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$360,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the ~~state department of health~~ health council for the purpose of providing a loan repayment program for licensed social workers and licensed addiction counselors, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017.