

2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1142

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1142

2/8/2021

am

House Appropriations Human Resources

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.

Chair Nelson Opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Nelson	P	
Kreidt	P	
Andersen	P	
Mitskog	P	
Schobinger		A
Strinden		A

- AHEC
- Students in Rural areas
- Nursing shortage
- HOSA
- Rural Healthcare
- CHAD

Rep Kempenich (9:03 am) introduced HB 1142

Denise Andress, Dir Western Area Health center (9:08 am) testified about AHEC #5703

Katelyn Brinkman, Dir AHEC (9:24 am) testified about AHEC #5707

Michael Curtis, Exec Dir, Mckensie City Healthcare Sys (9:33 am) testified about AHEC #5719

Benjamin Patton (9:39 am) testified about HOSA, oral testimony

Kyan Woodruff (9:45 am) testified about HOSA #5762

Ella Gabel (9:49 am) testified about HOSA #5764

Matt Shahan (9:52 am) testified about AHEC #5741

Shelly Ten Napel (10:00 am) testified about CHAD #5750

Trina Taszarek-Schilling (10:10 am) testified about AHEC #5737

Chair Nelson closed the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Cole Fleck, Committee Clerk



Stands for Jobs

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

P.O. Box 615 109 South Main Hettinger, ND 58639 • 701.637.0177
western.ndahec.org

North Dakota Area Health Education Center Testimony on HB 1142 #5703

House Appropriations-Human Resources Division

Room: Harvest

Representative Nelson, Chairman

Denise Andress – Director, Western Area Health Education Center

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Denise Andress. I am a registered nurse and Director of the Western North Dakota Area Health Education Center.

The North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (ND AHEC), based on federal guidelines, must be housed in rural areas, where citizens served by the ND AHEC reside. The regional centers based in Mayville, ND and Hettinger, ND provide the rural opportunities at the grass roots level separated from the major urban areas of ND (Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks). The ND AHEC has leveraged dollars from Federal, state and private funds for rural health care programs. The ND AHEC has three core focus areas: Kindergarten through college, rural clinical rotations for health profession students, and continuing education for health care professionals. Each of these core areas is vital for meeting the health care workforce needs of rural North Dakota.

I am excited to share the accomplishments since the last biennium, ND AHEC has:

- Reached over 23,256 participants and in every county in ND;
- Supported \$103,111 in health occupation activities for students;
- Assisted 144 students in rural clinical rotations;
- Contributed towards continuing education for health professionals; and
- Increased the number of HOSA-Future Health Professionals student led high school organization chapters to 16; with 584 student members and since 2012 have had 2084 non duplicate HOSA members.

In the last three biennium our funding for the ND AHEC has been placed in the Department of Commerce, Workforce Division (NDDOC). In these years, we have met the contractual requirements of the program requests. Within the Workforce Division of the NDDOC, ND AHEC has been the healthcare component identifying the workforce needs in rural areas. The following is a list of the biennium with financial state contributions as follow to provide health care development, employment and recruitment:

- 2013-2015 Biennium: \$400,000
- 2015-2017 Biennium: \$200,000
- 2017-2019 Biennium: \$0 allocated from the legislature; \$300,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce - Commissioners Discretionary funds

- 2019-2021 Biennium: \$0 allocated from legislature; \$200,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce-Commissioners Discretionary funds

We are very proud of our accomplishments because of the funding we have received.

I will highlight three key programs:

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a student led high school organization. It is the ONLY health care specific student organization in the state. As I previously mentioned, we currently are working with 584 students and have begun tracking them as they participate in HOSA activities. Currently, in the 164 public high schools in the state, only 46 offer a health career course; with only 28 health career instructors; 22 of which are in our four large or urban communities and only 6 serving rural. HOSA-Future Health Professionals program fills the gap in rural communities by utilizing rural health care professionals to mentor students. Through this program we are working to grow the pipeline of students who become health care providers in the state of North Dakota.

ND AHEC also supports health profession students in existing rural experiences and also assists with arranging new rural clinical rotations. More importantly, we work directly with these students to engage them in local activities outside of work. Recruitment of health care providers is easier if they have had the opportunity to 'live local' and get to know the people and the community environment. We are also tracking these students in an effort to identify what health care related activities they participated in and where they put roots down. This program is becoming more critical to the healthcare organizations in our state. We have had several critical access hospitals requesting housing and travel support for healthcare students. Because of an increase of locum travel support, increase demands on preceptors and unavailability of housing for students, some students are having to pay to live in these areas. As you can imagine, this has become more so during Covid. Housing for our students has not been the option for students that have normally stayed with an elderly couple or in a room at the hospital. These students are now looking into hotels so they can complete their rural rotation.

A new program AHEC has is the AHEC Scholars program. Requirements for this program include the last 2 years of the health care program (or last one year if a technical program), each year complete 40 hours of a rural clinical rotation and complete 40 hours of didactics directly related to rural and underserved populations. This program currently has 45 students we are tracking, not surprising, there has been 20 students in the last 2 months that have been recruited for this program. As this program grows to 50 students, we will have to cap the number of students participating. We will not have the funding to add other students which will limit the opportunity to recruit health care students to rural ND. With legislative support, the ND AHEC could expand this program to support students going to rural areas where the healthcare professionals are in critical need.

The nursing shortage that we are experiencing is much more crucial in our rural areas than in our urban counterparts. The ND AHEC is working with our rural healthcare facilities to consider implementing a rural nursing program. We work with the facilities and make connections with academic institutions to bring the rural nursing program to their community. We are making that link. Watford City and Hettinger are adding to the list of community based technical nursing programs to "grow their own". We are working with these facilities to plan ahead and solve this nursing shortage. We help them to identify community resource and local talent so our rural students can continue to work for their facility, make an income and be with their families. We are asking too much of them to travel miles from their

home for an education when we can bring it right to their home town. Programs like the Dakota Nursing program can assist these communities in development of the rural nursing program. It is imperative that we are out there to work with these communities.

With all our additional programs, we are continuously evaluating them to ensure effectiveness in achieving our mission. We need to improve evaluation with students in high school and college to identify what health care career path they are pursuing, and whether they would like to work in primary care or in a rural and/or an underserved community. Just recently we identified the 2094 no duplicate students that have participated in HOSA since 2012. To receive federal funds, we are obligated to report specific program data; however, we need to expand our data collection efforts to better identify the reach of the AHEC and to best meet the needs of our rural communities.

A sincere thank you, for your support in the last legislative session. To continue the successful work of North Dakota AHEC, and on behalf of our rural communities, please support House Bill 1142.

If you have questions at this time, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you,

Denise Andress, RN, MBA
Director, Western ND AHEC
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone - 701.928.0830
Email – denise@ndahec.org

02/8/2021

#5707

Legislative Testimony for House Bill 1142

House Appropriations Human Resources Committee

Chairman Nelson

Mister Chairman, and members of the committee, thank you for hearing us today. My name is Katelyn Brinkman, Director of the Eastern ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC), I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142.

The public is well aware of the medical contributions that rural health providers deliver to rural residents but the economic contributions that rural health care provides to the local community are equally important. It is crucial that rural residents have access to quality health care. It is crucial to generate and retain health care services and health care jobs in rural areas.

Currently,

- Of the 10 largest employers in the state of North Dakota, 8 of 10 are related to healthcare. (Job Service, ND)
- 12 of 53 counties (population total of 24,449) do not currently have a primary care physician. (UND)
- There will be a shortage between 260-360 rural family practice physicians in North Dakota by 2025. (UND)
- Current estimates suggest the need for additions of more than 370 nurses per year for the next 10 years. The shortage is particularly acute in ND's most rural areas. (Governor's Nursing Shortage Taskforce)

Rural Health impact on a community:

- About 20% of the population lives in rural America, yet only 9% of the nation's physicians practice in rural communities.
- Quality rural health services in rural communities are needed for good paying jobs, rewarding employment, and "trickle" down local economics, enhance local education, vitality of Main Street, and create and attract business and industry.
- On average, 14% of the total employment in rural communities is attributed to the health sector. (Lisbon, ND, population 2000, has a health care workforce of over 650. Northwood, ND, population 900, has a health care workforce of 200, the largest employer in the community).

Rural Primary Care Physician impact:

- One primary care physician in a rural community creates 26.3 jobs annually.
- One primary care physician in a rural community generates \$1.4 million in wages, salaries and benefits.

- The total economic impact of a typical critical access hospital is 170 employees and \$7.1 million in payroll.

How do we attract and retain quality health care in rural North Dakota?

- By exciting students to explore, to study, and to become rural health care providers.
- By assisting colleges and universities to create clinical experience rotations and interprofessional experiences with rural health care organizations, critical access hospitals and rural health providers.
- By supporting continuing education for health care workers in rural areas.
- By creating policy to encourage and support admissions in health care professional education.

The first AHEC was established in 1972 at Duke University in North Carolina. Their many years of evaluation and research has shown that any student “touched” by the AHEC Programs and mission will have an 18% increase in returning to provide health care to rural communities.

An 18% return to rural, would translate to an increase of 11 medical students (1st year class of 60 medical students) of North Dakota’s sons and daughters becoming health professionals who work to improve health care access and economic development in our rural and underserved communities.

A \$400,000 Department of Commerce/AHEC funded program allows for continuance of full staffing in both AHEC regions allowing continued support for all AHEC programs including HOSA, Clinical Rotations, AHEC Scholars, and Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training.

ND AHEC can contribute to our healthcare workforce issues by helping connect students to healthcare careers, health profession students to communities, and communities to better health. ND AHEC collaborates with all ND colleges and universities to assist meeting student needs in healthcare professions and assists with clinical placement in rural areas- AHEC is completely unbiased in regards to which program a student chooses and that is an important asset when assisting in developing our healthcare workforce.

The ND AHEC Program thanks you for your support in the last biennium, it is greatly appreciated and bears the efforts of the AHEC mission with many positive outcomes.

Thank you for your support and I urge “do pass” on House Bill 1142.

Respectfully submitted,
Katelyn Brinkman, Director
Eastern ND AHEC



Testimony #5719

Bill: HB #1142

House Appropriations Human Resources Committee

February 8, 2021

Chairman Nelson

Chairman Nelson and members of the House Appropriations Human Resources Committee, my name is Michael Curtis. I serve as the Executive Director of the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. (MCHS) in Watford City, North Dakota and am currently in the process of transitioning into the CEO role. I am here to provide support for the critical work of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program.

The position of determining which programs to fund is daunting under the best of circumstances; how much more so during a pandemic? This pandemic has impacted North Dakota residents physically, psychologically, and economically, leaving many with a sense of uncertainty. And yet every situation can provide learning opportunities. This pandemic exposed weaknesses in North Dakota's healthcare infrastructure; one in particular stands above the rest—"staffed bed." The cause was lack of available nursing staff.

The Critical Access Hospital within MCHS has 24 brand new licensed beds; we were able to staff 10. The limitation was available nursing staff. The short-term solution was, and has always been, travel staff. However, we were already using a notable number of travel staff in multiple departments before the pandemic. The effects of this approach were muted by the national staffing shortage. We then reduced elective surgeries in order to pull surgical nurses to the inpatient floor. This did not expand our capacity; it merely filled the staffing gaps created by staff attrition due to Covid-19 infection, isolation, and quarantine. The reliance on travel staff was concerning before; the pandemic made it untenable.

Our inaugural LPN class began in the Fall of 2020 in concert with Williston State College, with the goal to move into an RN program in the near future. This pivotal milestone will help reduce our long-term nursing shortage. However, it will not address the number of qualified applicants to the program. An increase in the number of qualified applicants is best achieved through exposure to healthcare careers in high school. AHEC supports many programs; however its support to expand HOSA-Future Health Professionals chapters is one way to increase healthcare career exposure in high schools. There is a national shortage of healthcare professionals. The long-term solution is not to recruit staff away from other states. The long-term solution is to "grow our own."

Therefore I urge support to the ND AHEC program and bill HB #1142.

Michael Curtis

Executive Director

mcurtis@mchsnd.org

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc.

Bill number: HB 1142

#5762

House Appropriations Human Resources Division
Representative Nelson, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Kyan Woodruff. I am a sophomore at Bismarck High School and this is my first year of being involved in HOSA. I currently hold the chapter office of secretary at our school and I am in the process of running for a North Dakota HOSA state officer position.

HOSA has been an excellent way for me to get involved in my school and my community. It has been helpful to me because I can learn more about different medical careers. I am also looking forward to being able to compete at the state competition this year.

Our chapter regularly invests in our school and community by getting involved in service projects. In years past, we have made blankets for our local hospitals, ran our school's blood drive and trained hundreds of people in the community on the skill of hands only CPR. This year COVID has changed some of those community service events, but we look forward to doing those again in the future.

HOSA is a group that gives back to our community and helps young students to develop leadership skills through competition. I am so happy that we have these opportunities as high school students because it helps me to develop the leadership skills that I will need in the future.

I urge you to pass HB 1142. This will help this wonderful program have an impact on students for years to come. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyan Woodruff
Bismarck High School

Bill number: HB 1142

#5764

House Appropriations Human Resources Division
Representative Nelson, Chairman

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Ella Gabel. I am a sophomore at Bismarck High School, and this is my first year with being a part of HOSA. HOSA is becoming an important part of my educational journey because it is giving me the opportunity to learn about medical careers outside of the classroom. Continued funding will help students like me to continue to explore medical careers and further develop their leadership skills.

HOSA is giving me an opportunity to learn more about the field of sports medicine as I begin to prepare for my upcoming state competition. I have been able to learn more about different hands on techniques that I wouldn't otherwise be able to learn. This is helping me to solidify my decision in a career pathway.

Our chapter has been involved in helping in the community in years past, and although we have not had many of these opportunities this year because of COVID, I look forward to these opportunities in the future. Being involved with serving our community helps myself and others to develop leadership skills.

I urge you to pass HB 1142. Doing so will ensure that students like myself will be able to be enriched by this wonderful program. HOSA will help to bridge the gap of the healthcare worker shortage by encouraging students to pursue careers in healthcare. I look forward to being involved in HOSA throughout my high school career.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Gabel
Bismarck High School HOSA



WEST RIVER HEALTH SERVICES

February 8, 2021

#5741

Members of the Sixty-Seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota:

Good morning Chairman Nelson and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity this morning to support HB1142, and specifically the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC). My name is Matt Shahan, and for the last 5 years I have had the amazing duty of serving as the CEO of West River Health Services in Hettinger. I'll ask that you humor me for just a moment as I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank and praise the 200+ healthcare heroes that I am honored to represent under the West River umbrella. During this pandemic our amazing staff has gone above and beyond what we have ever asked of them, and they have continuously delivered. I hope that as we move forward we never take for granted the magnitude of responsibility we ask of these heroes. I also want to quickly thank our partners in hospitals and health systems around this great state who stepped up in collaboration on behalf of our citizens during this pandemic.

As you may know, WRHS is an award winning Critical Access Hospital (CAH) that prides itself on providing high quality healthcare, close to home. We believe that rural residents deserve the same high quality of care as our urban counterparts and work tirelessly to deliver for them. We provide not just Family Medicine, but Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Radiology, Podiatry, Obstetrics, and General Surgery. For 71 years we have worked hard to develop a rural workforce that can handle such a wide range of services. We house an accelerated LPN program in partnership with Bismarck State College; host rural nursing rotations for various nursing programs in the state; are a Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) site through UND; and are a Rural Training Track site in partnership with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine where 2nd and 3rd year Residents complete their training in rural practice. Even so we struggle greatly to recruit and retain qualified staff to our rural communities that we serve. It is vital now more than ever that we succeed in the recruitment and retention of qualified workers and their families to rural North Dakota. Healthcare is one of the primary economic drivers for rural communities, and without our hospitals and health systems, many communities would fail to thrive.

Recruitment was already a challenge for rural facilities, and the pandemic only amplified those struggles. Travel nursing jobs in large urban centers are plentiful, locum tenens opportunities have grown significantly, and even competition with our own Department of Health during the pandemic have only added to the difficulties we face.

All of these difficulties add up and make the work of ND AHEC even more important. In partnership with AHEC, rural facilities are able to increase awareness of healthcare careers to the youth in North Dakota through programs such as the Scrubs Camp, and HOSA. Having been a judge at the state HOSA competition, I can tell you we have some amazing youth in our state, and we must do all that we can to help them succeed and return to our workforce. Healthcare facilities across the state benefit from AHEC's ability to educate middle and high school aged students

on the potential careers in healthcare, assisting students in finding internships while in college, and guiding them in their potential careers post-graduation. The success of hospitals and health centers in recruiting the workforce of the future will require partnerships with outside entities to leverage their expertise. Through partnerships and with the assistance of organizations like AHEC we can continue the effort to rebuild our workforce.

Post-pandemic we have another crisis looming in workforce shortages. We have seen retirements and career changes, and they are happening faster than we can replace them. Relying on temporary and travel staff is not financially viable long-term for rural facilities. Make no mistake about it, our healthcare system is going to need support itself coming out of this pandemic. The impact that the pandemic has had on the mental health of our workers is unknown at this time, but I believe it to be significant.

With concentrated efforts to replenish the workforce, increasing protection of healthcare workers, and continued development of workforce programs, I am confident that we can succeed. Looking forward I see the importance of programs such as AHEC becoming even more significant in the overall success of our rural healthcare system.

Thank you again for your time this morning, your support of rural healthcare related programs, and the important work that you all do on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Shahan, CEO
WRHS, WRHSF, WHLC

House Appropriations Committee Human Services Division

Testimony by:

Shelly Ten Napel, CEO

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas

February 8, 2021 #5750

Good afternoon, Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee. My name is Shelly Ten Napel, and I am the CEO with the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD). Thank you for the opportunity to be here today to speak in support of House Bill 1142.

As you may know, CHAD is a non-profit membership organization that serves as the Primary Care Association for North Dakota and South Dakota, supporting community health centers across both states in their efforts to provide health care to underserved and low-income populations.

Community health centers are non-profit, community-driven primary care clinics that provide high-quality primary and preventive care to all individuals, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Health centers are located in health professional shortage areas (HPSA), including both rural and urban areas across North Dakota. In rural communities, health centers support a community's ability to retain local health care, supporting access to health care where rural North Dakotans live and work.

North Dakota is home to five community health center organizations that provide comprehensive, integrated care to more than 40,000 individuals at 21 delivery sites in 19 communities across the state. In 2019, over 12,000 of those individuals were uninsured; 53 percent earned below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); and 81 percent earned below 200 percent of FPL.

Community health centers practice a model of care that focuses on treating the entire patient – a holistic approach to health care. Our integrated care model includes primary care, mental health and substance use treatment, dental care, pharmacy services, and a range of case management services that can include help with transportation, finding social services, or assistance with insurance and financial enrollments. As a result, health centers employ a range of health professionals. Because we work in communities that are, by definition, underserved by the health care system, recruitment and retention of good staff is both challenging and critical to our ability to fulfill our mission of access to high quality health care for ALL North Dakotans. In fact, our members have shared with me that support with meeting their workforce needs is their number one need.

I'd like to open my comments by expressing our strong support for the work of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC). As you know, the program supports training experiences for students in rural and underserved settings. We often find that once students are exposed to rural and underserved settings, they are more likely to choose them as a place to work.

I'd also like to take a few minutes to share our view that the educational experiences obtained through AHEC-sponsored training are strengthened by being aligned with loan repayment programs. These programs offer repayment of student debt in return for years of service in an underserved community. As community-based non-profits, CHCs are typically not able to afford large signing bonuses or the highest salary levels, but our ability to offer help with loan repayment can be a deciding factor for a health professional who is considering starting their career in an underserved rural or urban setting.

Loan repayment programs are a great investment. A study by the American Medical Association makes the case that each physician generates an average of \$1.8 million in total economic output and \$47,655 annually in state and local tax revenue per physician.¹ We know that nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, dentists and behavioral health providers can have similar economic impacts. Access to local health care is also a key part of making rural areas great places to live and work and to recruiting new businesses and residents to those communities.

Similar to the AHEC program, federal funds are available to match a state investment in loan repayment, and North Dakota is currently failing to maximize the opportunity for federal funds. The federal matching program is called the State Loan Repayment Program or SLRP. It matches state investment 1:1, potentially up to \$1 million. Currently, communities are being asked to provide the 1:1 match. The community match requirement has put this program out of reach for CHCs. If the state were to help support the matching requirements for CHCs, we could use that to leverage federal match as a recruiting tool. According to the Department of Health, of the 35 contracts that were completed between 2013 and 2019, 95% of those providers remain in North Dakota. We can share a fact sheet on the program in you are interested.

It is important for the legislature to act this year to increase state investment in SLRP because 2022 will be a year in which North Dakota would be allowed to request additional resources in order to take advantage of the full \$1 million that is available to states.

In conclusion, we want to strongly emphasize the importance workforce programs to CHCs – including training experiences in underserved communities and loan repayment to those serving in health professional shortage areas. Our mission as health centers is to provide care to populations and communities that otherwise could be left behind, but we cannot meet that mission without qualified health professionals willing to serve in those communities. We encourage the committee to support full funding for the AHEC program, and we ask that you consider amending this bill or finding another appropriate vehicle to also make a strong investment in state loan repayment programs, both the SLRP program and those currently funded with state dollars. We would love to work with you on ways to ensure all loan repayment programs are working for communities and maximizing the value of state investment. I am happy to take any questions.

¹ American Medical Association (2018). <https://www.physicianeconomicimpact.org/pdf/northdakota.pdf>

Testimony on HB 1142 #5737

House Appropriations Human Resource Division - Chairman, Nelson Monday, February 8, 2021

Good morning Mister Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is Trina Taszarek-Schilling, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142. I apologize for not being able to meet with you in person, however, I was on call this past weekend for our rural critical access hospital until this morning.

On behalf of myself, I am testifying in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (NDAHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply, and quality health care professionals.

I recently graduated from the Doctor of Nursing program of the University of Mary, Bismarck and have the honor of being the AHEC's programs first Scholar graduate. I am employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the South-Central Healthcare, Wishek, and rotate through the rural health clinics located in Kulm, Napoleon, Gackle and Wishek. During my studies, AHEC assisted me in completing my pediatrics rotation in the rural healthcare setting of Sanford Health, Dickinson, as well as my emergency service rotation at the Williston Medical Center in the Williston. I live in Wishek, and for a period of three weeks I traveled to Dickinson (400 miles round trip) for my pediatric rotation and for a period of 4 weeks I traveled to Williston (700 miles round trip). During each rotation, I stayed a period of four days each week to complete my clinical rotations. I was able to collaborate with ND AHEC to offset some of the endured mileage expenses through grant opportunities offered to those students who complete clinical hours at a rural health setting. This was extremely helpful, as in this rigorous program your time and dedication is to your studies and not the ability to work or work additional hours to offset non-covered or unanticipated expenses by one's financial aid throughout the educational track of program completion.

In closing, I would like to say that I, personally, am pleased to continue a relationship that was not only beneficial to me, but also to other future rural health students/providers and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. As a Doctor of Nursing, FNP, with a passion to serve rural North Dakota, I believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students, professional providers, rural communities, and assurance of access for quality health care services in our great State of North Dakota. Thank you.

I urge a "Do Pass" for House Bill 1142.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Trina Taszarek-Schilling, APRN, FNP-BC, MMGT, MBA

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
2/9/2021 am
House Appropriations Human Resources

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.
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Vice Chair Kreidt Opened the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Nelson		A
Kreidt	P	
Andersen	P	
Mitskog	P	
Schobinger		A
Strinden	P	

Discussion Topics:

- Vote on HB 1142 as amended

Rep Anderson made a motion do pass on HB 1142 as amended

Rep Strinden seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken:

Representatives	Yay	Nay	Absent
Nelson			x
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger			x
Strinden	x		

Motion passed 4 yay 0 nay 2 absent

Vice Chair Kreidt closed the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Cole Fleck, Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
2/16/2021

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.

4:16 Chairman Delzer- Opens the meeting for HB 1142;

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	A
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment
- APEC
- Rural Health Care

4:18 Representative Mitskog- Reviews HB 1142 and amendment 21.0429.01001

4:24 Representative Mitskog Makes a motion to adopt amendment

Representative Strinden Second

4:24 Voice vote- Motion Carries

Representative Mitskog Makes a motion for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Jon O. Nelson Seconds the motion

4:25 Roll Call Vote was taken;

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jeff Delzer	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Tracy Boe	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	A
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y

Motion Carries 17-2-2 Representative Mitskog will carry the bill

Additional written testimony: No Written Testimony

4:25 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for HB 1142

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

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Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the House Appropriations - Human Resources
Division Committee

February 9, 2021

*DR 2/16/21
1051*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1142

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$400,000" with "\$250,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment reduces the appropriation for matching funds to assist in enhancing health care personnel in rural areas of the state from \$400,000 to \$250,000.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1142: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (17 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1142 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 5, replace "\$400,000" with "\$250,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment reduces the appropriation for matching funds to assist in enhancing health care personnel in rural areas of the state from \$400,000 to \$250,000.

2021 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1142

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
3/8/2021

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.
--

Madam Chair Lee opened the hearing on HB 1142 at 11:32 a.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Behavioral health needs in rural areas
- AHEC programs

[11:32] Representative Keith Kempenich, District 39. Introduced HB 1142.

[11:38] Denise Andres, RN, MBA, Director, Western ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Provided testimony #7675 in favor and ND AHEC budget and explanation document (testimony #7676).

[11:50] Katelyn Brinkman, Director, Eastern ND AHEC. Provided testimony #7716 in favor.

[11:55] Matthew Shahan, CEO, ND AHEC. Provided testimony #7757 in favor.

[12:00] Benjamin Patton, Vice President, Legacy High School HOSA. Provided testimony #7693 in favor.

[12:03] Dr. Trina Taszarek-Schilling, APRN, FNP-BC, MGMT, MBA. Provided testimony #7695 in favor.

[12:07] Cherie Roshau, Killdeer HOSA Adviser. Provided oral testimony in favor.

[12:14] Katie Ralston, Director, Workforce Division, Department of Commerce. Provided neutral oral testimony.

Additional written testimony: (15)

Patricia Moulton Burwell, PHD, Executive Director, North Dakota Center for Nursing. Written testimony #7691 in favor.

Bobbie Johnson, Health Sciences Instructor, Dickinson High School. Written testimony #7690 in favor.

Theresa Will, Administrator, City-County Health District. Written testimony #7689 in favor.

Julie Traynor, MS, RN, CNE, Consortium Director, Dakota Nursing Program. Written testimony #7688 in favor.

Mara Jiran, CEO, Spectra Health. Written testimony #7687 in favor.

Jac McTaggart, Senior Director, Sanford Hillsboro & Sanford Mayville. Written testimony #7686 in favor.

Kyle Nissen, Executive Director, North Dakota Rural Health Association. Written testimony #7685 in favor.

Jayne Gust, Director, Sanford Health Community Relations, Fargo and Bismarck Regions. Written testimony #7684 in favor.

Shelly Peterson, President, ND Long Term Care Association. Written testimony #7683 in favor.

Tim Blasl, President, ND Hospital Association. Written testimony #7682 in favor.

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President, Mayville State University & Dr. Tami Such, VP of Academic Affairs, Mayville State University. Written testimony #7681 in favor.

Joelean Lowman, Medical Related Careers Instruction, LHS HOSA Advisor. Written testimony #7680 in favor.

Heather Frey, Medical Careers Instructor, HOSA Advisor, Bismarck High School. Written testimony #7679 in favor.

Kurt Snyder, Executive Director, Heartview Foundation. Written testimony #7678 in favor.

Wayde Sick, State Director, Department of Career and Technical Education. Written testimony #7677 in favor.

Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing on HB 1142 at 12:18 p.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk



Stands for Jobs

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

P.O. Box 615 109 South Main Hettinger, ND 58639 • 701.637.0177
western.ndahec.org

North Dakota Area Health Education Center Testimony on HB 1142

House Appropriations Human Services Committee

Room: Sakakawea

Senator Lee

Denise Andress – Director, Western Area Health Education Center

Chairwoman and members of the committee, my name is Denise Andress. I am a registered nurse and Director of the Western North Dakota Area Health Education Center.

The North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (ND AHEC), based on federal guidelines, must be housed in rural areas, where citizens served by the ND AHEC reside. The regional centers based in Mayville, ND and Hettinger, ND provide the rural opportunities at the grass roots level separated from the major urban areas of ND (Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks). The ND AHEC has leveraged dollars from Federal, state and private funds for rural health care programs. The ND AHEC has three core focus areas: Kindergarten through college, rural clinical rotations for health profession students, and continuing education for health care professionals. Each of these core areas is vital for meeting the health care workforce needs of rural North Dakota.

I am excited to share the accomplishments since the last biennium, ND AHEC has:

- Reached over 23,256 participants and in every county in ND;
- Supported \$103,111 in health occupation activities for students;
- Assisted 144 students in rural clinical rotations;
- Contributed towards continuing education for health professionals; and
- Increased the number of HOSA-Future Health Professionals student led high school organization chapters to 16; with 584 student members and since 2012 have had 2084 non duplicate HOSA members.

In the last three biennium our funding for the ND AHEC has been placed in the Department of Commerce, Workforce Division (NDDOC). In these years, we have met the contractual requirements of the program requests. Within the Workforce Division of the NDDOC, ND AHEC has been the healthcare component identifying the workforce needs in rural areas. The following is a list of the biennium with financial state contributions as follow to provide health care development, employment and recruitment:

- 2013-2015 Biennium: \$400,000
- 2015-2017 Biennium: \$200,000
- 2017-2019 Biennium: \$0 allocated from the legislature; \$300,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce - Commissioners Discretionary funds

- 2019-2021 Biennium: \$0 allocated from legislature; \$200,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce-Commissioners Discretionary funds

We are very proud of our accomplishments because of the funding we have received.

I will highlight three key programs:

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a student led high school organization. It is the ONLY health care specific student organization in the state. As I previously mentioned, we currently are working with 584 students and have begun tracking them as they participate in HOSA activities. Currently, in the 164 public high schools in the state, only 46 offer a health career course; with only 28 health career instructors; 22 of which are in our four large or urban communities and only 6 serving rural. HOSA-Future Health Professionals program fills the gap in rural communities by utilizing rural health care professionals to mentor students. Through this program we are working to grow the pipeline of students who become health care providers in the state of North Dakota.

ND AHEC also supports health profession students in existing rural experiences and also assists with arranging new rural clinical rotations. More importantly, we work directly with these students to engage them in local activities outside of work. Recruitment of health care providers is easier if they have had the opportunity to 'live local' and get to know the people and the community environment. We are also tracking these students in an effort to identify what health care related activities they participated in and where they put roots down. This program is becoming more critical to the healthcare organizations in our state. We have had several critical access hospitals requesting housing and travel support for healthcare students. Because of an increase of locum travel support, increase demands on preceptors and unavailability of housing for students, some students are having to pay to live in these areas. As you can imagine, this has become more so during Covid. Housing for our students has not been the option for students that have normally stayed with an elderly couple or in a room at the hospital. These students are now looking into hotels so they can complete their rural rotation.

A new program AHEC has is the AHEC Scholars program. Requirements for this program include the last 2 years of the health care program (or last one year if a technical program), each year complete 40 hours of a rural clinical rotation and complete 40 hours of didactics directly related to rural and underserved populations. This program currently has 45 students we are tracking, not surprising, there has been 20 students in the last 2 months that have been recruited for this program. As this program grows to 50 students, we will have to cap the number of students participating. We will not have the funding to add other students which will limit the opportunity to recruit health care students to rural ND. With legislative support, the ND AHEC could expand this program to support students going to rural areas where the healthcare professionals are in critical need.

The nursing shortage that we are experiencing is much more crucial in our rural areas than in our urban counterparts. The ND AHEC is working with our rural healthcare facilities to consider implementing a rural nursing program. We work with the facilities and make connections with academic institutions to bring the rural nursing program to their community. We are making that link. Watford City and Hettinger are adding to the list of community based technical nursing programs to "grow their own". We are working with these facilities to plan ahead and solve this nursing shortage. We help them to identify community resource and local talent so our rural students can continue to work for their facility, make an income and be with their families. We are asking too much of them to travel miles from their

home for an education when we can bring it right to their home town. Programs like the Dakota Nursing program can assist these communities in development of the rural nursing program. It is imperative that we are out there to work with these communities.

With all our additional programs, we are continuously evaluating them to ensure effectiveness in achieving our mission. We need to improve evaluation with students in high school and college to identify what health care career path they are pursuing, and whether they would like to work in primary care or in a rural and/or an underserved community. Just recently we identified the 2094 no duplicate students that have participated in HOSA since 2012. To receive federal funds, we are obligated to report specific program data; however, we need to expand our data collection efforts to better identify the reach of the AHEC and to best meet the needs of our rural communities.

A sincere thank you, for your support in the last legislative session. To continue the successful work of North Dakota AHEC, and on behalf of our rural communities, please support House Bill 1142.

If you have questions at this time, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you,

Denise Andress, RN, MBA
Director, Western ND AHEC
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone - 701.928.0830
Email – denise@ndahec.org



NORTH DAKOTA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

#7676



The ND Area Health Education Center is comprised of a Program Office and two regional centers in Mayville (East) & Hettinger (West)

\$103,111

Provided to health occupation activities for students



23,256

Participants reached across every county in ND



\$100,000

By leveraging state, federal, and private funding for HOSA-Future Health Professionals



2094

Non duplicate HOSA members since 2012

HOSA 2020

- 584 HOSA Members
- 16 Chapters
- 21 Advisors



\$60,000

Assisted students in rural and underserved clinical rotations in North Dakota

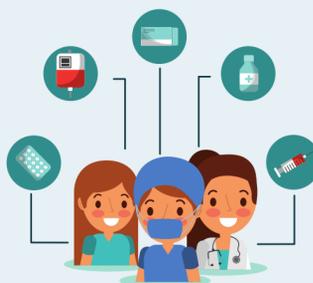


144

Students assisted in rural & underserved clinical rotations in:

\$30,000

Contributed toward continuing education for health care professionals



nursing
 dietetics
 dentistry
 physical therapy
 occupational therapy



social work
 medicine
 psychology
 pharmacy
 administration

**data from the inception of the ND AHEC program*

Future Funding

- Consolidation of workforce development resources
- Raising incentive for AHEC Scholars Program
- Health career promotion in K-12
- Expand the current HOSA chapters & membership
- Enhance evaluation to include tracking participants
- Modernize marketing and format of website to attract tomorrow's health professionals



Partnerships

- UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences
 - Center for Rural Health
 - Department of Family and Community Medicine
- UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines
- North Dakota University System
 - Lake Region State College
 - Bismarck State College
 - Dickinson State University
 - NDSU College of Nursing
- ND Dept. of Commerce
- Mayville State University
- Trail County Public Health
- Fort Yates Hospital
- Barnes County Public Health District
- Spectra Health
- ND Center for Nursing
- ND Career and Technical Education
- ND Department of Health, Primary Care Office
- ND Rural Health Association
- ND Long term Care Association
- ND Hospital Association
- University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
- Sanford Health

Return on Investment

- State funds double the investment from the federal government
- 1:1 Federal match required
- Retention of health care professionals in critical and underserved rural areas

ND AHEC Funding Stream (2016-2020)												
Funding Source	2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020		
	Eastern	Western	Program Office	Eastern	Western	Program Office	Eastern	Western	Program Office	Eastern	Western	Program Office
HRSA, Federal AHEC funding (required 1:1 non-federal match)	\$79,079	\$79,079	\$52,719	\$77,250	\$77,250	\$51,500	\$77,250	\$77,250	\$51,500	\$101,955	\$101,955	\$67,970
HRSA, Federal AHEC/ Opioid funding (required 1:1 non-federal match)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$37,200	\$12,402	\$0	\$32,775	\$0
*HRSA, Federal BHWET Funding	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,592	\$18,592	\$40,313	\$19,708	\$19,708	\$44,338	\$19,099	\$19,099	\$46,451
1:1 non-federal (required) match												
State/ DoC Funding	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
State/ DoC Funding to support/ promote DNP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sanford for HOSA Chapter Development	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0

Area Health Education Centers Program – Funding Restrictions

Not less than 75% of the total federal funding shall be allocated to area health education centers.
 Not more than 25% of the total federal funding shall be allocated to AHEC program office.
 Indirect cost is limited to 8%, as a result of being categorized as a training grant.
 Match requirement is 1:1 (federal funds to non-federal contributions).
 25% of non-federal match contributions shall be in cash.



Brad Gibbens

Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SOMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman

Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress

Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

03/8/2021

Legislative Testimony for House Bill 1142

House Appropriations Human Services Committee

Chairwoman Lee

Chairwoman, and members of the committee, thank you for hearing us today. My name is Katelyn Brinkman, Director of the Eastern ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC), I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142.

The public is well aware of the medical contributions that rural health providers deliver to rural residents but the economic contributions that rural health care provides to the local community are equally important. It is crucial that rural residents have access to quality health care. It is crucial to generate and retain health care services and health care jobs in rural areas.

Currently,

- Of the 10 largest employers in the state of North Dakota, 8 of 10 are related to healthcare. (Job Service, ND)
- 12 of 53 counties (population total of 24,449) do not currently have a primary care physician. (UND)
- There will be a shortage between 260-360 rural family practice physicians in North Dakota by 2025. (UND)
- Current estimates suggest the need for additions of more than 370 nurses per year for the next 10 years. The shortage is particularly acute in ND's most rural areas. (Governor's Nursing Shortage Taskforce)

Rural Health impact on a community:

- About 20% of the population lives in rural America, yet only 9% of the nation's physicians practice in rural communities.
- Quality rural health services in rural communities are needed for good paying jobs, rewarding employment, and "trickle" down local economics, enhance local education, vitality of Main Street, and create and attract business and industry.
- On average, 14% of the total employment in rural communities is attributed to the health sector. (Lisbon, ND, population 2000, has a health care workforce of over 650. Northwood, ND, population 900, has a health care workforce of 200, the largest employer in the community).

Rural Primary Care Physician impact:

- One primary care physician in a rural community creates 26.3 jobs annually.
- One primary care physician in a rural community generates \$1.4 million in wages, salaries and benefits.

- The total economic impact of a typical critical access hospital is 170 employees and \$7.1 million in payroll.

How do we attract and retain quality health care in rural North Dakota?

- By exciting students to explore, to study, and to become rural health care providers.
- By assisting colleges and universities to create clinical experience rotations and interprofessional experiences with rural health care organizations, critical access hospitals and rural health providers.
- By supporting continuing education for health care workers in rural areas.
- By creating policy to encourage and support admissions in health care professional education.

The first AHEC was established in 1972 at Duke University in North Carolina. Their many years of evaluation and research has shown that any student “touched” by the AHEC Programs and mission will have an 18% increase in returning to provide health care to rural communities.

An 18% return to rural, would translate to an increase of 11 medical students (1st year class of 60 medical students) of North Dakota’s sons and daughters becoming health professionals who work to improve health care access and economic development in our rural and underserved communities.

A \$400,000 Department of Commerce/AHEC funded program allows for continuance of full staffing in both AHEC regions allowing continued support for all AHEC programs including HOSA, Clinical Rotations, AHEC Scholars, and Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training.

ND AHEC can contribute to our healthcare workforce issues by helping connect students to healthcare careers, health profession students to communities, and communities to better health. ND AHEC collaborates with all ND colleges and universities to assist meeting student needs in healthcare professions and assists with clinical placement in rural areas- AHEC is completely unbiased in regards to which program a student chooses and that is an important asset when assisting in developing our healthcare workforce.

The ND AHEC Program thanks you for your support in the last biennium, it is greatly appreciated and bears the efforts of the AHEC mission with many positive outcomes.

Thank you for your support and I urge “do pass” on House Bill 1142.

Respectfully submitted,
Katelyn Brinkman, Director
Eastern ND AHEC

#7757



WEST RIVER HEALTH SERVICES

March 8, 2021

Members of the Sixty-Seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota:

Good morning Chairwoman Lee and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity this morning to support HB1142, and specifically the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC). My name is Matt Shahan, and for the last 5 years I have had the amazing duty of serving as the CEO of West River Health Services in Hettinger. I'll ask that you humor me for just a moment as I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank and praise the 200+ healthcare heroes that I am honored to represent under the West River umbrella. During this pandemic our amazing staff has gone above and beyond what we have ever asked of them, and they have continuously delivered. I hope that as we move forward we never take for granted the magnitude of responsibility we ask of these heroes. I also want to quickly thank our partners in hospitals and health systems around this great state who stepped up in collaboration on behalf of our citizens during this pandemic.

As you may know, WRHS is an award winning Critical Access Hospital (CAH) that prides itself on providing high quality healthcare, close to home. We believe that rural residents deserve the same high quality of care as our urban counterparts and work tirelessly to deliver for them. We provide not just Family Medicine, but Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Radiology, Podiatry, Obstetrics, and General Surgery. For 71 years we have worked hard to develop a rural workforce that can handle such a wide range of services. We house an accelerated LPN program in partnership with Bismarck State College; host rural nursing rotations for various nursing programs in the state; are a Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) site through UND; and are a Rural Training Track site in partnership with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine where 2nd and 3rd year Residents complete their training in rural practice. Even so we struggle greatly to recruit and retain qualified staff to our rural communities that we serve. It is vital now more than ever that we succeed in the recruitment and retention of qualified workers and their families to rural North Dakota. Healthcare is one of the primary economic drivers for rural communities, and without our hospitals and health systems, many communities would fail to thrive.

Recruitment was already a challenge for rural facilities, and the pandemic only amplified those struggles. Travel nursing jobs in large urban centers are plentiful, locum tenens opportunities have grown significantly, and even competition with our own Department of Health during the pandemic have only added to the difficulties we face.

All of these difficulties add up and make the work of ND AHEC even more important. In partnership with AHEC, rural facilities are able to increase awareness of healthcare careers to the youth in North Dakota through programs such as the Scrubs Camp, and HOSA. Having been a judge at the state HOSA competition, I can tell you we have some amazing youth in our state, and we must do all that we can to help them succeed and return to our workforce. Healthcare facilities across the state benefit from AHEC's ability to educate middle and high school aged students

on the potential careers in healthcare, assisting students in finding internships while in college, and guiding them in their potential careers post-graduation. HB1142 provided for \$250,000 in funding for AHEC, and I would encourage this committee to at a minimum maintain this funding request. The success of hospitals and health centers in recruiting the workforce of the future will require partnerships with outside entities to leverage their expertise. Through partnerships and with the assistance of organizations like AHEC we can continue the effort to rebuild our workforce.

Post-pandemic we have another crisis looming in workforce shortages. We have seen retirements and career changes, and they are happening faster than we can replace them. Relying on temporary and travel staff is not financially viable long-term for rural facilities. Make no mistake about it, our healthcare system is going to need support itself coming out of this pandemic. The impact that the pandemic has had on the mental health of our workers is unknown at this time, but I believe it to be significant.

With concentrated efforts to replenish the workforce, increasing protection of healthcare workers, and continued development of workforce programs, I am confident that we can succeed. Looking forward I see the importance of programs such as AHEC becoming even more significant in the overall success of our rural healthcare system.

Thank you again for your time this morning, your support of rural healthcare related programs, and the important work that you all do on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Shahan, CEO
WRHS, WRHSF, WHLC

#7693

March 8th, 2021

HB 1142 Testimony

Senate Appropriations Human Services Committee- Chairwomen Lee

Mrs. Chairman and members of the committee,

Good morning, my name is Benjamin Patton. I am currently a senior at Legacy High School and Vice President of our school's HOSA chapter. This will be my third year as a member of the organization.

HOSA has been played an influential role in my education. The group has allowed me to not only become informed on the myriad of different healthcare careers, but it's also allowed me to grow in my leadership capabilities. I enjoy HOSA because it allows me to connect with others through a common passion and interest in the healthcare realm of the workforce. I am highly involved with several other organizations and teams at my school, so I know how important it is to find other students that share common interests, and I think HOSA is a vital key in the search process for many students.

Over the past 3 years, I have found many of the activities that HOSA facilitates extremely rewarding and gratifying. I have enjoyed things like planning for fundraisers and blood drives, organizing teacher appreciation cards, and sending thank-you bags to our local healthcare workers. While I am often too busy to attend every leadership conference and the state and national competitions, I only hear good things from my nearest friends about their experiences. The conferences and competitions can teach some hard skills like CPR, first aid, sports medicine, and basic medical terminology, but I think, most importantly, that these events teach us members how to collaborate, lead, and prepare all while having the ability to do so under the common passion for the health and medical sciences. These events also grant us the opportunity to meet others from around the local area, state, and perhaps the world with the exact same interests we do. I found that it is with these experiences that motivate and inspire others to pursue careers in the medical field after high school and become the best, working citizens they can be in the future.

Additionally, students who wish to compete and participate in the many opportunities that HOSA allows are able to win awards, recognition, and even scholarships that would only add to the skills they learned and the memories that made to propel students into life after college. For me, HOSA has definitely given me a guide to what I want to do and who I want to be entering my adult life. I'd say, without a doubt, HOSA has sparked an interest that I will carry into the workforce and life after school.

With the help of state funding, HOSA will only further encourage more students to do the same. HOSA adds aspects to education that basic high school classes simply cannot reciprocate. Students will learn to collaborate, communicate, and maybe even discover a passion that leads to a career that they cherish for their entire life. Students in HOSA are exposed to opportunities unique to the club that no organization may have to offer. For any student who wants to be prepared for education and work after high school, this organization is truly like no other, so funding is crucial to support these future professionals no matter what role they decide to take on.

I urge a do pass on *House Bill 1142*. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity and will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Patton
HOSA Vice President
Legacy High School

Testimony on HB 1142

Senate Human Services Committee – Chairwoman Lee

Monday, March 8, 2021

Good morning Ms. Chairwoman Lee, and members of the committee, my name is Trina Taszarek-Schilling, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142. I apologize for not being able to meet with you in person, however, I was on call this past weekend for our rural critical access hospital until this morning.

On behalf of myself, I am testifying in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (NDAHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply, and quality health care professionals.

I recently graduated from the Doctor of Nursing program of the University of Mary, Bismarck and have the honor of being the AHEC's programs first Scholar graduate. I am employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the South-Central Healthcare, Wishek, and rotate through the rural health clinics located in Kulm, Napoleon, Gackle and Wishek. During my studies, AHEC assisted me in completing my pediatrics rotation in the rural healthcare setting of Sanford Health, Dickinson, as well as my emergency service rotation at the Williston Medical Center in the Williston. I live in Wishek, and for a period of three weeks I traveled to Dickinson (400 miles round trip) for my pediatric rotation and for a period of 4 weeks I traveled to Williston (700 miles round trip). During each rotation, I stayed a period of four days each week to complete my clinical rotations. I was able to collaborate with ND AHEC to offset some of the endured mileage expenses through grant opportunities offered to those students who complete clinical hours at a rural health setting. This was extremely helpful, as in this rigorous program your time and dedication is to your studies and not the ability to work or work additional hours to offset non-covered or unanticipated expenses by one's financial aid throughout the educational track of program completion.

In closing, I would like to say that I, personally, am pleased to continue a relationship that was not only beneficial to me, but also to other future rural health students/providers and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. As a Doctor of Nursing, FNP, with a passion to serve rural North Dakota, I believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students, professional providers, rural communities, and assurance of access for quality health care services in our great State of North Dakota. Thank you.

I urge a "Do Pass" for the amount of \$250,000 for House Bill 1142.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Trina Taszarek-Schilling, APRN, FNP-BC, MGMT, MBA

#7691



January 14, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director, ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Denise Andress
Director, Western ND AHEC
109 S. Main Street
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Katelyn Brinkman
Director, Eastern ND AHEC
Mayville State University
330 3rd Street NE
Mayville, ND 58257

On behalf of the ND Center for Nursing, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (NDAHEC) Program through HB 1142 including the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern NDAHEC, Western NDAHEC). The AHEC program focuses on connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. In particular, the HOSA- Future Health Professionals provides opportunities for high school students to learn about all health careers including nursing. The AHEC also provides support for clinical rotations and AHEC Scholars.

The NDAHEC serves as an active member of our board of directors as we work collaboratively to address the nursing workforce shortage. We also help to coordinate the promotion of the nursing careers with AHEC staff.

In closing, I would like to say that the ND Center for Nursing is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health or North Dakota. Thank you.

Patricia Moulton Burwell, PhD
Executive Director
North Dakota Center for Nursing
Patricia.moulton@ndcenterfornursing.org

#7690

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Dickinson High School (DHS), we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply, and quality health care professionals.

AHEC representatives, Denise Andress and Katie Shahan have traveled to visit DHS Health Science classes the last seven years. Denise and Katie bring the students stethoscopes to listen to Jack. Jack is a Sims pediatric mannequin. Students get to auscultate Jack's heart, lung, and bowel sounds. Jack can make vomiting, coughing, and moaning sounds. The students have fun and learn about physical examination techniques such as auscultation. Denise and Katie inform students about all the healthcare careers available to them in North Dakota. They do an outstanding job exposing students to the ND university programs that offer healthcare majors.

In closing, we would like to say that DHS is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities, and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Bobbie Johnson
DHS Health Sciences Instructor

#7689



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

City-County Health District

James Buhr, M.D.
Health Officer

Theresa Will, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.
Administrator

415 2nd Avenue NE, Ste. 101
Valley City, ND 58072-3011
(701) 845-8518 • Fax (701) 845-8542
www.citycountyhealth.org

January 15, 2021

Brad Gibbons
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UND SMHS
1301 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St. NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
109 S Main St.
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbons, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of City-County Health District, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

City-County Health District (CCHD) in Valley City provides public health services to the Barnes County community. I currently serve on the advisory board at the area Sheyenne Valley Career & Technology Center, and health careers is one area of focus. As an Eastern ND AHEC board member, I am in a position to share information with the board regarding the AHEC program.

Serving as the administrator of CCHD, I know firsthand the problems faced by rural healthcare facilities when trying to hire medical professionals. Only through collaboration and education are we going to be able to continue to attract students to the healthcare workforce to meet the needs in rural and underserved communities in the future.

In closing, we would like to say that City-County Health District is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Theresa Will
Theresa Will, Administrator
City-County Health District

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Lake Region State College • Williston State College

#7688

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress:

On behalf of the Dakota Nursing Program, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program and the Eastern ND and Western ND AHEC Centers. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support to the pipeline of health care workforce training programs to address the workforce shortages of healthcare providers.

The North Dakota AHEC has established a strong program with two regional centers located in rural communities in the eastern and western parts of the state. Although located regionally, the centers work in close partnership with each other, the program office and a variety of partner organizations around the state to leverage financial and human resources to most effectively address the health care workforce needs.

The Dakota Nursing Program is a consortium of four community colleges (Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College and Williston State College), we educate practical nursing and associate degree registered nurses. AHEC provides financial support for our rural nursing students as they travel to clinical locations. They assist us in recruiting students to our programs. I believe the AHEC is a key player in the development of the health care workforce in rural and underserved areas.

The Dakota Nursing Program values our partnership with the ND AHEC. I believe this is a worthy program and helps in meeting the needs of future health care students, rural communities, and quality health care for North Dakota citizens.

Sincerely,



Julie Traynor, MS, RN, CNE
Consortium Director
Dakota Nursing Program
1801 College Drive North
Devils Lake, ND 58301





212 South 4th Street, Suite 200
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701.757.2100
spectrahealth.org

January 20, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of Spectra Health, a federally qualified health center located in NE North Dakota, I submit this letter of support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

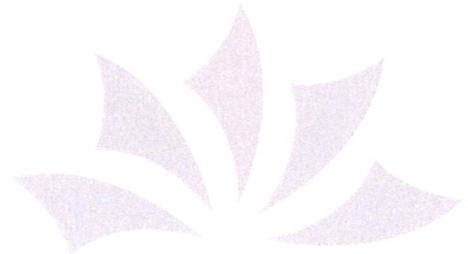
In 2019 ND AHEC partnered with Spectra Health and the Iowa College of Dentistry to provide housing for two 4th year dental students that lead to 366 patients receiving care. Both students who received financial support from ND AHEC program were from North Dakota and had intent to return to the state upon graduation. One student that participated in the student rotation was successfully hired at Spectra Health upon graduation from the Iowa College of Dentistry.

Spectra Health whole heartedly supports a continued relationship that is beneficial to the health center and is in direct alignment with the goals of ND AHEC and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We sincerely believe ND AHEC programming is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mara Jiran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mara Jiran, CEO
Spectra Health
701.757.2802



Sanford Hillsboro
 PO Box 609
 12 Third St SE
 Hillsboro, ND 58045-0609
 Comstock Corner Assisted Living: (701) 636-3266
 Business Office: (701) 636-3200
 Hospital: (701) 636-3219
 Care Center: (701) 636-3235
 Fax: (701) 636-3206
sanfordhealth.org

January 8, 2021

Brad Gibbens
 Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Rd, STOP 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
 Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
 Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Sanford Hillsboro and Sanford Mayville, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Being rural, we find that the Scrubs Camps program, located at Hillsboro and Mayville, is a great way to allow our students to get a look into the opportunities to work in healthcare our facilities. As a member Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board, I will continue to support the work in helping connect students to rural healthcare related career opportunities, thus creating a positive way to meet the needs in rural North Dakota.

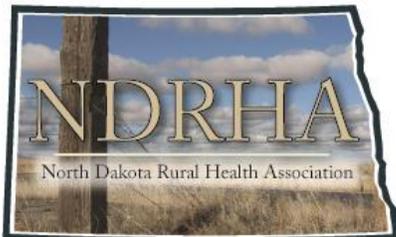
In closing, I would like to say that Sanford Hillsboro and Sanford Mayville are pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Jac McTaggart
 Senior Director
 Sanford Hillsboro & Sanford Mayville

Our Mission:
 Dedicated to the work of
 health and healing



The North Dakota Rural Health Association's mission is to bring together diverse interests and provide a unified voice to promote and enhance the quality of rural health through leadership, advocacy, coalition building, education and communication.

Visit the NDRHA website at ndrha.org!

January 20, 2021

President:

Brittany Ness, COVID
Coordinator/School Nurse
Northwood Public School
4 N Park St.
Northwood, ND 58267
Tel: 701-430-1972
brittany.ness@ndhc.net

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

President-Elect:

Ben Bucher, CEO
Towner County Medical Center
7448 US-281
Cando, ND 58324
Tel: 701-968-2500
benb@tcmedcenter.org

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pete Antonson, Administrator
Northwood Deaconess Health
Center
4 N Park Street
Northwood, ND 58267
Tel: 701-587-6060
pete.antonson@ndhc.net

As Executive Director of the North Dakota Rural Health Association (NDRHA), I want to acknowledge the NDRHA Board of Director's support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Centers and their programs that focus on providing support for health workforce, specifically the North Dakota HOSA program.

North Dakota HOSA, a program administered by the AHEC, is a valuable resource for high schoolers interested in health professions. The workforce development work that is conducted is a service to the state.

Past President:

Gretchen Dobervich, Public
Health Policy Manager
North Dakota State University
1301 12th Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58105
Tel: 701-277-9757
gretchen.dobervich@ndsu.edu

As many North Dakota health facilities are struggling with workforce shortages, the importance in having programs that promote those professions is vitally important.

Sincerely,

Kylie Nissen, Executive Director
North Dakota Rural Health Association

Executive Director:

Kylie Nissen, Program Director
Center for Rural Health
1301 N Columbia Rd. Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037
Tel: 701-777-5380
kylie.nissen@und.edu

Date: 1/21/2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Sanford Health, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Sanford Health supports the ND Area Health Education Center for a number of reasons. First of all, we are first and foremost, a rural healthcare system. Our support of the ND AHEC Program serves the state and region on many levels. It is important to Sanford Health to foster an interest in health care on many levels.

Secondly, from the standpoint of strengthening our own workforce, it is vital to instill an interest in the numerous different opportunities that are available in the healthcare field. If Sanford Health can help initiate that interest at an early level, the opportunities that we can expose our younger high school age students to, will only benefit the state of North Dakota and our rural communities.

Our partnership with ND AHEC is a product of our commitment to growing the interest in healthcare opportunities in the communities we serve and to inspire local high school students to seek the impactful openings that may await them in the communities in which they have already grown up in.

Sanford Health believes in growing and inspiring our own workforce, and ND AHEC is a big part of allowing that approach to come to fruition. We strongly support North Dakota's commitment to the vision and mission of ND AHEC.

Respectfully,



Jayne Gust
Director of Sanford Health Community Relations
Fargo and Bismarck Regions
Jayne.Gust@Sanfordhealth.org

January 22, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

The ND AHEC connect student to health careers in K-16 by investing in rural youth through education and experiential learning opportunities to inspire and grow the North Dakota workforce. The connect health profession students to communities through community based clinical experiences. They also connect communities to better health by providing opportunities for practicing health professionals in rural and underserved areas.

I support the ND Area Health Education Center and the work they have done for the rural and underserved areas of North Dakota. They work with students to get them interested in all types of health care careers.

Sincerely,



Shelly Peterson, President
ND Long Term Care Association



Vision

The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active leadership role in major Healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Hospital Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of the North Dakota Hospital Association, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

I support the ND Area Health Education Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Blasl", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Blasl
President



January 22, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of Mayville State University, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Over the past few years (2010-2018), Mayville State University (MaSU) has been a strong supporter and collaborator with the ND AHEC/E AHEC by agreeing to be the Recipient to the Contractor (University of North Dakota) to assist the performance of the Eastern ND AHEC scope of work. In the fall 2012 MaSU agreed to a similar relationship for the Western ND AHEC. In addition Mayville State University has supported ND AHEC through partnering with K-12 health career fairs, establishment of the Dakota Nursing Program of the Lake Region State College, Dakota Nursing Program, on the Mayville State University campus, and collaboration with MaSU STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum. Mayville State University also supports ND AHEC by being an Eastern AHEC and Western AHEC Advisory Board member.

In closing, we would like to say that Mayville State University is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President
Mayville State University

Dr. Tami Such, VP for Academic Affairs
Mayville State University

January 25, 2021

#7680

Brad Gibbens, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
1301 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St. NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Legacy High School HOSA, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

ND AHEC has been an amazing support to our program over the past years. NDAHEC has brought HOSA – future health professionals to the state. This organization provides opportunities to build medical knowledge and technical skills, as well as develop leadership necessary for a career in the health industry. HOSA helps students to learn about a variety of medical careers, to develop skills that will be essential to their future careers as healthcare providers, develop leadership skills and increase community awareness and participation.

In closing, I would like to say that Legacy High School HOSA is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Joelean Lowman
Medical Related Careers Instruction
LHS HOSA Advisor


BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL

1/20/21

Brad Gibbens
 Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
 Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
 Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

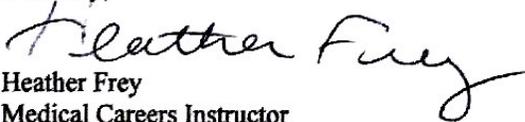
Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Bismarck HOSA chapter. I am writing to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western AHEC focuses on providing support across the healthcare workforce pipeline to address healthcare workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality healthcare professionals. This is more crucial than ever due to the current healthcare worker shortage and pandemic crisis.

As an advisor, I can say that HOSA has had an enormous impact on students who wish to pursue a career in healthcare. Bismarck High school had its first HOSA chapter in 2012 thanks to the partnership with ND AHEC program. Since the start of the program, Bismarck High alone has had hundreds of students impacted through the HOSA program. HOSA is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and learn more about medical professions. Many students have participated in hands on learning opportunities that the state and fall leadership HOSA conferences provide. Several ND students have even earned national scholarships through HOSA which has helped to launch their education into a health career. Many of the students who are involved in HOSA go on to pursue a career path in the medical world, and this is needed more now than ever. HOSA has had a positive impact on many students in my school and none of this would be possible without our partnership with NDAHEC.

In closing, we would like to say that Bismarck High School HOSA is pleased to continue the relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Education Center and the Eastern/Western Area Education Centers. We believe that this support is worthy and meets the needs of future healthcare students, professional providers, rural communities and quality healthcare for North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Heather Frey
 Medical Careers Instructor
 HOSA advisor
 Bismarck High School



U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 1999-2000



Established 1964

HEARTVIEW FOUNDATION

101 E. Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
1-701-222-0386
FAX 1-701-255-4891

7448 68th Avenue NE
Cando, ND 58324
1-701-968-4056
FAX 1-701-968-4456

heartview.org

info@heartview.org

1-800-337-3160



Nationally Accredited

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter of support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center, (AHEC).

AHEC is a valuable resource for the state of North Dakota and has been a vital partner to the Heartview Foundation. The partnership with AHEC has resulted in a deeper understanding of the opioid epidemic within rural communities of North Dakota. Our work with AHEC has helped to reduce stigma, increased engagement with medical providers and to educate the youth within the communities.

AHEC has provided valuable resources and support towards workforce development within the addiction profession. Their support of addiction interns has resulted in increased opportunity to recruit and retain an addiction workforce in rural North Dakota.

I strongly encourage the full support of AHEC as a vital component of serving rural and underserved areas of North Dakota.

Respectfully,


Kurt Snyder
Executive Director



DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

State Capitol, 15th Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 270, Bismarck ND 58505-0610
701-328-3180 www.cte.nd.gov email: cte@nd.gov

January 11, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address:

On behalf of the Department of Career and Technical Education, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Presently, ND AHEC is engaged in the important work of advising the HOSA student organization. This gives students that are taking health science courses the same leadership opportunities provided in other Career Technical Student Organizations such as FFA or FBLA. The HOSA state officers are invited to attend the state leadership conference, hosted by the Department of Career and Technical Education.

In closing, we would like to say that the Department of Career and Technical Education is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayde Sick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and "S".

Wayde Sick
State Director

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
3/9/2021

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.
--

Madam Vice Chair K. Roers opens the discussion on HB 1142 at 2:49 p.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens. Members absent: O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- AHEC program
- Appropriation of funds

Senator Hogan moves **DO PASS**.

Senator Anderson seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	N
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Oley Larsen	ABSENT

The motion passed 4-1-1

Senator K. Roers will carry HB 1142.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Vice Chair K. Roers closed the discussion on HB 1142 at 2:51 p.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1142, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1142 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1142

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
3/23/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.
--

Senator Wanzek opened the hearing at 3:49 PM.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.** **Senator Bekkedahl** was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- AHEC – Area Health Education Center
- Scholarships to nurses
- Area Health Education Center funding

Representative Kempenich, District 39, introduced the bill.

Denise Andress, Director, ND Area Health Education Center – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10506.

Tim Blasl, President, ND Hospital Association – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10555.

Kyan Woodruff, Bismarck High School student – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10216.

Katelyn Brinkman, Director, Eastern ND Area Health Education Center – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10510.

Matt Shahan, CEO, West River Health Service, Hettinger, ND – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10550.

Trina Schilling, Family Nurse Practitioner, Wishek, ND – South Central Area Health Education Center – testified in favor and submitted testimony #10222.

Additional written testimony: #10156, #10157, #10158, #10159, #10160, #10161, #10162, #10163, #10165, #10166, #10167, #10168, #10170, #10192, #10320, #10405, #10408, #10487, #10496.

Senator Wanzek closed the hearing at 4:25 PM.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk



Stands for Jobs

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

P.O. Box 615 109 South Main Hettinger, ND 58639 • 701.637.0177
western.ndahec.org

North Dakota Area Health Education Center Testimony on HB 1142

House Appropriations Committee Senator Holmberg

Denise Andress – Director, Western Area Health Education Center

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Denise Andress. I am a registered nurse and Director of the Western North Dakota Area Health Education Center.

The North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (ND AHEC), based on federal guidelines, must be housed in rural areas, where citizens served by the ND AHEC reside. The regional centers based in Mayville, ND and Hettinger, ND provide the rural opportunities at the grass roots level separated from the major urban areas of ND (Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks). The ND AHEC has leveraged dollars from Federal, state and private funds for rural health care programs. The ND AHEC has three core focus areas: Kindergarten through college, rural clinical rotations for health profession students, and continuing education for health care professionals. Each of these core areas is vital for meeting the health care workforce needs of rural North Dakota.

I am excited to share some of our accomplishments since the last biennium, ND AHEC has:

- Reached over 23,256 participants and in every county in ND;
- Supported \$103,111 in health occupation activities for students;
- Assisted 144 students in rural clinical rotations;
- Contributed towards continuing education for health professionals; and
- Increased the number of HOSA-Future Health Professionals student led high school organization chapters to 16; with 584 student members and since 2012 have had 2084 non duplicate HOSA members.

In the last four biennium our funding for the ND AHEC has been placed in the Department of Commerce, Workforce Division (NDDOC). In these years, we have met the contractual requirements of the program requests. Within the Workforce Division of the NDDOC, ND AHEC has been the healthcare component identifying the workforce needs in rural areas. The following is a list of the biennium with financial state contributions as follow to provide health care development, employment and recruitment:

- 2013-2015 Biennium: \$400,000
- 2015-2017 Biennium: \$200,000

- 2017-2019 Biennium: \$0 allocated from the legislature; \$300,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce - Commissioners Discretionary funds
- 2019-2021 Biennium: \$0 allocated from legislature; \$200,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce-Commissioners Discretionary funds

We are very proud of our accomplishments because of the funding we have received.

I will highlight three key programs:

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a student led high school organization. It is the ONLY health care specific student organization in the state. As I previously mentioned, we currently are working with 584 students and have begun tracking them as they participate in HOSA activities. Currently, in the 164 public high schools in the state, only 46 offer a health career course; with only 28 health career instructors; 22 of which are in our four large or urban communities and only 6 serving rural. HOSA-Future Health Professionals program fills the gap in rural communities by utilizing rural health care professionals to mentor students. Through this program we are working to grow the pipeline of students who become health care providers in the state of North Dakota.

ND AHEC also supports health profession students in existing rural experiences and also assists with arranging new rural clinical rotations. More importantly, we work directly with these students to engage them in local activities outside of work. Recruitment of health care providers is easier if they have had the opportunity to 'live local' and get to know the people and the community environment. We are also tracking these students in an effort to identify what health care related activities they participated in and where they put roots down. This program is becoming more critical to the healthcare organizations in our state. We have had several critical access hospitals requesting housing and travel support for healthcare students. Because of an increase of locum travel support, increase demands on preceptors and unavailability of housing for students, some students are having to pay to live in these areas. As you can imagine, this has become more so during Covid. Housing for our students has not been the option for students that have normally stayed with an elderly couple or in a room at the hospital. These students are now looking into hotels so they can complete their rural rotation.

A new program AHEC has is the AHEC Scholars program. Requirements for this program include the last 2 years of the health care program (or last one year if a technical program), each year complete 40 hours of a rural clinical rotation and complete 40 hours of didactics directly related to rural and underserved populations. This program currently has 45 students we are tracking, not surprising, there has been 20 students in the last 2 months that have been recruited for this program. As this program grows to 50 students, we will have to cap the number of students participating. We will not have the funding to add other students which will limit the opportunity to recruit health care students to rural ND. With legislative support, the ND AHEC could expand this program to support students going to rural areas where the healthcare professionals are in critical need.

The nursing shortage that we are experiencing is much more crucial in our rural areas than in our urban counterparts. The ND AHEC is working with our rural healthcare facilities to consider implementing a rural nursing program. We work with the facilities and make connections with academic institutions to bring the rural nursing program to their community. We are making that link. Watford City and Hettinger are adding to the list of community based technical nursing programs to “grow their own”. We are working with these facilities to plan ahead and solve this nursing shortage. We help them to identify community resource and local talent so our rural students can continue to work for their facility, make an income and be with their families. We are asking too much of them to travel miles from their home for an education when we can bring it right to their home town. Programs like the Dakota Nursing program can assist these communities in development of the rural nursing program. It is imperative that we are out there to work with these communities.

With all our additional programs, we are continuously evaluating them to ensure effectiveness in achieving our mission. We need to improve evaluation with students in high school and college to identify what health care career path they are pursuing, and whether they would like to work in primary care or in a rural and/or an underserved community. Just recently we identified the 2094 no duplicate students that have participated in HOSA since 2012. To receive federal funds, we are obligated to report specific program data; however, we need to expand our data collection efforts to better identify the reach of the AHEC and to best meet the needs of our rural communities.

A sincere thank you, for your support in the last legislative session. To continue the successful work of North Dakota AHEC, and on behalf of our rural communities, please support House Bill 1142.

If you have questions at this time, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you,

Denise Andress, RN, MBA
Director, Western ND AHEC
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone - 701.928.0830
Email – denise@ndahec.org



2021 HB 1142
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Holmberg, Chairman
March 23, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1142. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals are in support of the bill because it will lessen the shortage of health care professionals in North Dakota. The bill will provide an appropriation to the Department of Commerce for the purpose of providing matching funds to an organization assisting in the recruitment, distribution, and supply, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of personnel providing health services in rural areas of the state.

As you know, workforce challenges threaten access to health care services, especially in rural areas where it can be hard to recruit and retain workers. We experienced that in sharp focus during the height of COVID-19 hospitalizations last fall. Without nurses, physicians, and other health care professionals, it does not matter how many beds we physically add to our hospitals. We need trained health care professionals to be able to care for patients.

Even before the pandemic, there was a serious and growing health care professional shortage. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of healthcare occupations is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024 - much faster than the average for all occupations.

Recruiting health care professionals in North Dakota will require ongoing, targeted investment in training programs to increase faculty, allow seamless transitions between undergraduate degree programs, and provide incentives for providers to participate in clinical training of students. Retention of health care workers will also be key to ensuring the workforce shortage does not grow.

In summary, NDHA supports this legislation to assist in the recruitment, distribution, and supply of qualified health care professionals in the rural areas of the state. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association

Bill number: HB 1142
Senate of Appropriations
Chair Senator Ray Holmberg

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Hello, my name is Kyan Woodruff. I am a sophomore at Bismarck High School and this is my first year of being involved in HOSA. I currently hold the chapter office of secretary at our school and I am in the process of running for a North Dakota HOSA state office.

HOSA is just more than the competition. This allows for students like me to help us solidify our passions for the medical field. HOSA teaches us valuable skills through education, collaboration, and experience. I am also looking forward to being able to compete at the state competition this year.

HOSA has been an excellent way for me to get involved in my school and my community. HOSA is a organization that also focuses on giving back to the community. In years past, we have made blankets for our local hospitals, we also run our school's blood drive and we have trained hundreds of people in the community of the skill of hands only CPR. This year COVID has put a wrench in our normal projects, But we look forward to doing those again in the future.

COVID drastically changed the medical field by putting the need for nurse and CNA higher than ever, allowing for this funding will help normal high school students like me to advance the ability to help others in the future. We have the privilege as students to this amazing opportunity as a gateway to the medical field. I have the ability to build on those essential skills needed for any daily life but also the healthcare profession.

As we stand up here today to urge you to pass HB 1142 I just want to leave everyone with one thing. The chapters and the lessons that us students all learn through HOSA and every other thing associated with the medical field as high school students, will hopefully one day save someone's life and that life could be yours.

I urge you to pass HB 1142. This will help this wonderful program have an impact on students for years to come. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyan Woodruff
Bismarck High School

03/8/2021

Legislative Testimony for House Bill 1142

House Appropriations Human Services Committee

Chairwoman Lee

Chairwoman, and members of the committee, thank you for hearing us today. My name is Katelyn Brinkman, Director of the Eastern ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and also the State Director for HOSA- Health Occupations Students of America. I am joining today to testify in favor of House Bill 1142.

The public is well aware of the medical contributions that rural health providers deliver to rural residents but the economic contributions that rural health care provides to the local community are equally important. It is crucial that rural residents have access to quality health care. It is crucial to generate and retain health care services and health care jobs in rural areas.

Currently,

- Of the 10 largest employers in the state of North Dakota, 8 of 10 are related to healthcare. (Job Service, ND)
- 12 of 53 counties (population total of 24,449) do not currently have a primary care physician. (UND)
- There will be a shortage between 260-360 rural family practice physicians in North Dakota by 2025. (UND)
- Current estimates suggest the need for additions of more than 370 nurses per year for the next 10 years. The shortage is particularly acute in ND's most rural areas. (Governor's Nursing Shortage Taskforce)

Rural Health impact on a community is as follows:

- About 20% of the population lives in rural America, yet only 9% of the nation's physicians practice in rural communities.
- Quality rural health services in rural communities are needed for good paying jobs, rewarding employment, and the "trickle" down effect on local economics. This will enhance local education, the vitality of Main Street, and create and attract business and industry.
- On average, 14% of the total employment in rural communities is attributed to the health sector. (For example- Lisbon, ND has a population 2000 and has a health care workforce of over 650. Northwood, ND has a population of 900 and has a health care workforce of 200. Making it the largest employer in the community).

Having Rural Primary Care Physicians is as equally impactful

- One primary care physician in a rural community creates 26.3 jobs annually.

- One primary care physician in a rural community generates \$1.4 million in wages, salaries and benefits.
- The total economic impact of a typical critical access hospital is 170 employees and \$7.1 million in payroll.

The question then stands- How do we attract and retain quality health care in rural North Dakota? We do this:

- By exciting students to explore, to study, and to become rural health care providers.
- By assisting colleges and universities to create clinical experience rotations and interprofessional experiences with rural health care organizations, the critical access hospitals and rural health providers.
- By supporting continuing education for health care workers in rural areas.
- By creating policy to encourage and support admissions in health care professional education.

The first AHEC was established in 1972 at Duke University in North Carolina. Their many years of evaluation and research has shown that any student “touched” by the AHEC Programs and mission will have an 18% increase in returning to provide health care to rural communities.

An 18% return to rural, would translate to an increase of 11 medical students (1st year class of 60 medical students) of North Dakota’s sons and daughters becoming health professionals who work to improve health care access and economic development in our rural and underserved communities.

A \$250,000 Department of Commerce/AHEC funded program allows for continuance of full staffing in both AHEC regions allowing continued support for all AHEC programs including HOSA, Clinical Rotations, AHEC Scholars, and Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training.

ND AHEC can contribute to our healthcare workforce issues by helping connect students to healthcare careers, health profession students to communities, and communities to better health. ND AHEC collaborates with all ND colleges and universities to assist meeting student needs in healthcare professions and assists with clinical placement in rural areas- AHEC is completely unbiased in regards to which program a student chooses and that is an important asset when assisting in developing our healthcare workforce.

The ND AHEC Program thanks you for your support in the last biennium, it is greatly appreciated and bears the efforts of the AHEC mission with many positive outcomes.

Thank you for your support and I urge “do pass” on House Bill 1142.

Respectfully submitted,
Katelyn Brinkman, Director
Eastern ND AHEC



WEST RIVER HEALTH SERVICES

March 23, 2021

Members of the Sixty-Seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota:

Good morning Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity this morning to support HB1142, and specifically the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC). My name is Matt Shahan, and for the last 5 years I have had the amazing duty of serving as the CEO of West River Health Services in Hettinger. I'll ask that you humor me for just a moment as I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank and praise the 200+ healthcare heroes that I am honored to represent under the West River umbrella. During this pandemic our amazing staff has gone above and beyond what we have ever asked of them, and they have continuously delivered. I hope that as we move forward we never take for granted the magnitude of responsibility we ask of these heroes. I also want to quickly thank our partners in hospitals and health systems around this great state who stepped up in collaboration on behalf of our citizens during this pandemic.

As you may know, WRHS is an award winning Critical Access Hospital (CAH) that prides itself on providing high quality healthcare, close to home. We believe that rural residents deserve the same high quality of care as our urban counterparts and work tirelessly to deliver for them. We provide not just Family Medicine, but Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Radiology, Podiatry, Obstetrics, and General Surgery. For 71 years we have worked hard to develop a rural workforce that can handle such a wide range of services. We house an accelerated LPN program in partnership with Bismarck State College; host rural nursing rotations for various nursing programs in the state; are a Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) site through UND; and are a Rural Training Track site in partnership with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine where 2nd and 3rd year Residents complete their training in rural practice. Even so we struggle greatly to recruit and retain qualified staff to our rural communities that we serve. It is vital now more than ever that we succeed in the recruitment and retention of qualified workers and their families to rural North Dakota. Healthcare is one of the primary economic drivers for rural communities, and without our hospitals and health systems, many communities would fail to thrive.

Recruitment was already a challenge for rural facilities, and the pandemic only amplified those struggles. Travel nursing jobs in large urban centers are plentiful, locum tenens opportunities have grown significantly, and even competition with our own Department of Health during the pandemic have only added to the difficulties we face.

All of these difficulties add up and make the work of ND AHEC even more important. In partnership with AHEC, rural facilities are able to increase awareness of healthcare careers to the youth in North Dakota through programs such as the Scrubs Camp, and HOSA. Having been a judge at the state HOSA competition, I can tell you we have some amazing youth in our state, and we must do all that we can to help them succeed and return to our workforce. Healthcare facilities across the state benefit from AHEC's ability to educate middle and high school aged students

on the potential careers in healthcare, assisting students in finding internships while in college, and guiding them in their potential careers post-graduation. HB1142 provided for \$250,000 in funding for AHEC, and I would encourage this committee to at a minimum maintain this funding request. The success of hospitals and health centers in recruiting the workforce of the future will require partnerships with outside entities to leverage their expertise. Through partnerships and with the assistance of organizations like AHEC we can continue the effort to rebuild our workforce.

Post-pandemic we have another crisis looming in workforce shortages. We have seen retirements and career changes, and they are happening faster than we can replace them. Relying on temporary and travel staff is not financially viable long-term for rural facilities. Make no mistake about it, our healthcare system is going to need support itself coming out of this pandemic. The impact that the pandemic has had on the mental health of our workers is unknown at this time, but I believe it to be significant.

With concentrated efforts to replenish the workforce, increasing protection of healthcare workers, and continued development of workforce programs, I am confident that we can succeed. Looking forward I see the importance of programs such as AHEC becoming even more significant in the overall success of our rural healthcare system.

Thank you again for your time this morning, your support of rural healthcare related programs, and the important work that you all do on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Shahan, CEO
WRHS, WRHSF, WHLC

Testimony on HB 1142**Senate Appropriation Committee – Chair Senator Ray Holmberg
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 3:45pm (Roughrider Room)**

Good morning Chair Senator Holmberg, and members of the committee, my name is Trina Taszarek-Schilling, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142. I apologize for not being able to meet with you in person, however, I am not able to travel because of clinic appointments today.

On behalf of myself, I am testifying in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (NDAHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply, and quality health care professionals.

I recently graduated from the Doctor of Nursing program of the University of Mary, Bismarck and have the honor of being the AHEC's programs first Scholar graduate. I am employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the South-Central Healthcare, Wishek, and rotate through the rural health clinics located in Kulm, Napoleon, Gackle and Wishek. During my studies, AHEC assisted me in completing my pediatrics rotation in the rural healthcare setting of Sanford Health, Dickinson, as well as my emergency service rotation at the Williston Medical Center in the Williston. I live in Wishek, and for a period of three weeks I traveled to Dickinson (400 miles round trip) for my pediatric rotation and for a period of 4 weeks I traveled to Williston (700 miles round trip). During each rotation, I stayed a period of four days each week to complete my clinical rotations. I was able to collaborate with ND AHEC to offset some of the endured mileage expenses through grant opportunities offered to those students who complete clinical hours at a rural health setting. This was extremely helpful, as in this rigorous program your time and dedication is to your studies and not the ability to work or work additional hours to offset non-covered or unanticipated expenses by one's financial aid throughout the educational track of program completion.

In closing, I would like to say that I, personally, am pleased to continue a relationship that was not only beneficial to me, but also to other future rural health students/providers and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. As a Doctor of Nursing, FNP, with a passion to serve rural North Dakota, I believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students, professional providers, rural communities, and assurance of access for quality health care services in our great State of North Dakota. Thank you.

I urge a "Do Pass" in the amount of \$250,000 for House Bill 1142.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Trina Taszarek-Schilling, APRN, FNP-BC, MGMT, MBA



DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

State Capitol, 15th Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 270, Bismarck ND 58505-0610
 701-328-3180 www.cte.nd.gov email: cte@nd.gov

January 11, 2021

Brad Gibbens
 Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
 Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
 Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address:

On behalf of the Department of Career and Technical Education, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Presently, ND AHEC is engaged in the important work of advising the HOSA student organization. This gives students that are taking health science courses the same leadership opportunities provided in other Career Technical Student Organizations such as FFA or FBLA. The HOSA state officers are invited to attend the state leadership conference, hosted by the Department of Career and Technical Education.

In closing, we would like to say that the Department of Career and Technical Education is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayde Sick".

Wayde Sick
 State Director



Established 1964

HEARTVIEW FOUNDATION

101 E. Broadway Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
1-701-222-0386
FAX 1-701-255-4891

7448 68th Avenue NE
Cando, ND 58324
1-701-968-4056
FAX 1-701-968-4456

10157



Nationally Accredited

heartview.org

info@heartview.org

1-800-337-3160

To Whom it May Concern,

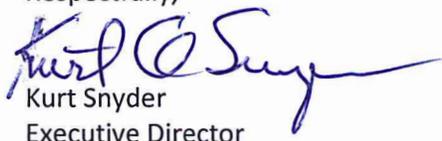
Please accept this letter of support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center, (AHEC).

AHEC is a valuable resource for the state of North Dakota and has been a vital partner to the Heartview Foundation. The partnership with AHEC has resulted in a deeper understanding of the opioid epidemic within rural communities of North Dakota. Our work with AHEC has helped to reduce stigma, increased engagement with medical providers and to educate the youth within the communities.

AHEC has provided valuable resources and support towards workforce development within the addiction profession. Their support of addiction interns has resulted in increased opportunity to recruit and retain an addiction workforce in rural North Dakota.

I strongly encourage the full support of AHEC as a vital component of serving rural and underserved areas of North Dakota.

Respectfully,


Kurt Snyder
Executive Director


BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL

1/20/21

Brad Gibbens
 Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
 Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
 Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

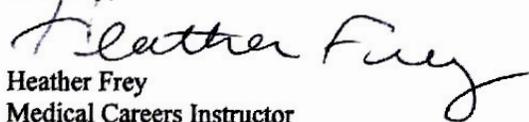
Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Bismarck HOSA chapter. I am writing to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western AHEC focuses on providing support across the healthcare workforce pipeline to address healthcare workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality healthcare professionals. This is more crucial than ever due to the current healthcare worker shortage and pandemic crisis.

As an advisor, I can say that HOSA has had an enormous impact on students who wish to pursue a career in healthcare. Bismarck High school had its first HOSA chapter in 2012 thanks to the partnership with ND AHEC program. Since the start of the program, Bismarck High alone has had hundreds of students impacted through the HOSA program. HOSA is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and learn more about medical professions. Many students have participated in hands on learning opportunities that the state and fall leadership HOSA conferences provide. Several ND students have even earned national scholarships through HOSA which has helped to launch their education into a health career. Many of the students who are involved in HOSA go on to pursue a career path in the medical world, and this is needed more now than ever. HOSA has had a positive impact on many students in my school and none of this would be possible without our partnership with NDAHEC.

In closing, we would like to say that Bismarck High School HOSA is pleased to continue the relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Education Center and the Eastern/Western Area Education Centers. We believe that this support is worthy and meets the needs of future healthcare students, professional providers, rural communities and quality healthcare for North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Heather Frey
 Medical Careers Instructor
 HOSA advisor
 Bismarck High School



U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 1999-2000

January 25, 2021

Brad Gibbens, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
1301 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St. NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Legacy High School HOSA, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

ND AHEC has been an amazing support to our program over the past years. NDAHEC has brought HOSA – future health professionals to the state. This organization provides opportunities to build medical knowledge and technical skills, as well as develop leadership necessary for a career in the health industry. HOSA helps students to learn about a variety of medical careers, to develop skills that will be essential to their future careers as healthcare providers, develop leadership skills and increase community awareness and participation.

In closing, I would like to say that Legacy High School HOSA is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Joelean Lowman
Medical Related Careers Instruction
LHS HOSA Advisor



January 22, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Mayville State University, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Over the past few years (2010-2018), Mayville State University (MaSU) has been a strong supporter and collaborator with the ND AHEC/E AHEC by agreeing to be the Recipient to the Contractor (University of North Dakota) to assist the performance of the Eastern ND AHEC scope of work. In the fall 2012 MaSU agreed to a similar relationship for the Western ND AHEC. In addition Mayville State University has supported ND AHEC through partnering with K-12 health career fairs, establishment of the Dakota Nursing Program of the Lake Region State College, Dakota Nursing Program, on the Mayville State University campus, and collaboration with MaSU STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum. Mayville State University also supports ND AHEC by being an Eastern AHEC and Western AHEC Advisory Board member.

In closing, we would like to say that Mayville State University is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President
Mayville State University

Dr. Tami Such, VP for Academic Affairs
Mayville State University

10161



Vision

The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active leadership role in major Healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Hospital Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the North Dakota Hospital Association, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

I support the ND Area Health Education Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Blasl', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Blasl
President

January 22, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

The ND AHEC connect student to health careers in K-16 by investing in rural youth through education and experiential learning opportunities to inspire and grow the North Dakota workforce. The connect health profession students to communities through community based clinical experiences. They also connect communities to better health by providing opportunities for practicing health professionals in rural and underserved areas.

I support the ND Area Health Education Center and the work they have done for the rural and underserved areas of North Dakota. They work with students to get them interested in all types of health care careers.

Sincerely,



Shelly Peterson, President
ND Long Term Care Association



The North Dakota Rural Health Association's mission is to bring together diverse interests and provide a unified voice to promote and enhance the quality of rural health through leadership, advocacy, coalition building, education and communication.

Visit the NDRHA website at ndrha.org!

January 20, 2021

President:

Brittany Ness, COVID
Coordinator/School Nurse
Northwood Public School
4 N Park St.
Northwood, ND 58267
Tel: 701-430-1972
brittany.ness@ndhc.net

President-Elect:

Ben Bucher, CEO
Towner County Medical Center
7448 US-281
Cando, ND 58324
Tel: 701-968-2500
benb@tcmedcenter.org

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pete Antonson, Administrator
Northwood Deaconess Health
Center
4 N Park Street
Northwood, ND 58267
Tel: 701-587-6060
pete.antonson@ndhc.net

Past President:

Gretchen Dobervich, Public
Health Policy Manager
North Dakota State University
1301 12th Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58105
Tel: 701-277-9757
gretchen.dobervich@ndsu.edu

Executive Director:

Kylie Nissen, Program Director
Center for Rural Health
1301 N Columbia Rd. Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037
Tel: 701-777-5380
kylie.nissen@und.edu

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Address,

As Executive Director of the North Dakota Rural Health Association (NDRHA), I want to acknowledge the NDRHA Board of Director's support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Centers and their programs that focus on providing support for health workforce, specifically the North Dakota HOSA program.

North Dakota HOSA, a program administered by the AHEC, is a valuable resource for high schoolers interested in health professions. The workforce development work that is conducted is a service to the state.

As many North Dakota health facilities are struggling with workforce shortages, the importance in having programs that promote those professions is vitally important.

Sincerely,

Kylie Nissen, Executive Director
North Dakota Rural Health Association

10165



Sanford Hillsboro
PO Box 609
12 Third St SE
Hillsboro, ND 58045-0609

Comstock Corner Assisted Living: (701) 636-3266
Business Office: (701) 636-3200
Hospital: (701) 636-3219
Care Center: (701) 636-3235
Fax: (701) 636-3206
sanfordhealth.org

January 8, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Rd, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Sanford Hillsboro and Sanford Mayville, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Being rural, we find that the Scrubs Camps program, located at Hillsboro and Mayville, is a great way to allow our students to get a look into the opportunities to work in healthcare our facilities. As a member Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board, I will continue to support the work in helping connect students to rural healthcare related career opportunities, thus creating a positive way to meet the needs in rural North Dakota.

In closing, I would like to say that Sanford Hillsboro and Sanford Mayville are pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Jac McTaggart
Senior Director
Sanford Hillsboro & Sanford Mayville

Our Mission:
Dedicated to the work of
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212 South 4th Street, Suite 200
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701.757.2100
 spectrahealth.org

January 20, 2021

Brad Gibbens
 Director ND AHEC
 Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
 1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
 Eastern AHEC Director
 Mayville State University
 330 3rd St NE
 Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
 Western AHEC Director
 PO Box 615
 109 S Main Street
 Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Spectra Health, a federally qualified health center located in NE North Dakota, I submit this letter of support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

In 2019 ND AHEC partnered with Spectra Health and the Iowa College of Dentistry to provide housing for two 4th year dental students that lead to 366 patients receiving care. Both students who received financial support from ND AHEC program were from North Dakota and had intent to return to the state upon graduation. One student that participated in the student rotation was successfully hired at Spectra Health upon graduation from the Iowa College of Dentistry.

Spectra Health whole heartedly supports a continued relationship that is beneficial to the health center and is in direct alignment with the goals of ND AHEC and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We sincerely believe ND AHEC programming is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mara Jiran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mara Jiran, CEO
 Spectra Health
 701.757.2802



DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Lake Region State College • Williston State College

10167

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress:

On behalf of the Dakota Nursing Program, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program and the Eastern ND and Western ND AHEC Centers. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support to the pipeline of health care workforce training programs to address the workforce shortages of healthcare providers.

The North Dakota AHEC has established a strong program with two regional centers located in rural communities in the eastern and western parts of the state. Although located regionally, the centers work in close partnership with each other, the program office and a variety of partner organizations around the state to leverage financial and human resources to most effectively address the health care workforce needs.

The Dakota Nursing Program is a consortium of four community colleges (Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College and Williston State College), we educate practical nursing and associate degree registered nurses. AHEC provides financial support for our rural nursing students as they travel to clinical locations. They assist us in recruiting students to our programs. I believe the AHEC is a key player in the development of the health care workforce in rural and underserved areas.

The Dakota Nursing Program values our partnership with the ND AHEC. I believe this is a worthy program and helps in meeting the needs of future health care students, rural communities, and quality health care for North Dakota citizens.

Sincerely,



Julie Traynor, MS, RN, CNE
Consortium Director
Dakota Nursing Program
1801 College Drive North
Devils Lake, ND 58301



10168



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City-County Health District

James Buhr, M.D.
Health Officer

Theresa Will, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.
Administrator

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Valley City, ND 58072-3011
(701) 845-8518 • Fax (701) 845-8542
www.citycountyhealth.org

January 15, 2021

Brad Gibbons
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UND SMHS
1301 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St. NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
109 S Main St.
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbons, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of City-County Health District, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

City-County Health District (CCHD) in Valley City provides public health services to the Barnes County community. I currently serve on the advisory board at the area Sheyenne Valley Career & Technology Center, and health careers is one area of focus. As an Eastern ND AHEC board member, I am in a position to share information with the board regarding the AHEC program.

Serving as the administrator of CCHD, I know firsthand the problems faced by rural healthcare facilities when trying to hire medical professionals. Only through collaboration and education are we going to be able to continue to attract students to the healthcare workforce to meet the needs in rural and underserved communities in the future.

In closing, we would like to say that City-County Health District is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,


Theresa Will, Administrator
City-County Health District

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman
Eastern AHEC Director
Mayville State University
330 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western AHEC Director
PO Box 615
109 S Main Street
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Dickinson High School (DHS), we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply, and quality health care professionals.

AHEC representatives, Denise Andress and Katie Shahan have traveled to visit DHS Health Science classes the last seven years. Denise and Katie bring the students stethoscopes to listen to Jack. Jack is a Sims pediatric mannequin. Students get to auscultate Jack's heart, lung, and bowel sounds. Jack can make vomiting, coughing, and moaning sounds. The students have fun and learn about physical examination techniques such as auscultation. Denise and Katie inform students about all the healthcare careers available to them in North Dakota. They do an outstanding job exposing students to the ND university programs that offer healthcare majors.

In closing, we would like to say that DHS is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities, and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Bobbie Johnson
DHS Health Sciences Instructor

23 March 2021

Testimony on HB 1142

Senate Appropriations Human Services Committee - Chair Senator Holmberg

Mr. Chair Senator and members of the committee,

Hello! My name is Jadyn Guidinger, and I am a senior at Legacy High School. I have been involved in HOSA for three years, currently serving as the president of both North Dakota and Legacy High School HOSA. I have had ample opportunities to grow as a leader and learner, expanding my comfort zone. One memory, in particular, that I will never forget is when I visited a second grade classroom, educating students about the importance of handwashing.

“Those live on me??” One child exclaims. “No way!”

“Yes way!” I counter, glancing around at the other seventeen second graders, all with similar looks of disgust and fascination. Then, I catch the eyes of my team, all fighting the urge to laugh. We shared giant stuffed animal germs and slightly gross photos and videos with the students. We also used Glo Germ and a UV light to help students improve their handwashing skills. “Kill the Bug!,” our health education project, went on to win a gold medal at the HOSA State Leadership Conference for our creative plan, execution, presentation, and portfolio.

When I entered high school, I was so shy. I would never have presented to a large group, even if the group consisted of only seven and eight year olds. However, after joining HOSA, I dove into the organization, tackling communication problems and implementing solutions, as my chapter’s secretary. HOSA brought me out of my shell. Now, as the North Dakota HOSA President, I have presented to hundreds of people. HOSA introduced me to a passion for science and healthcare and has prepared me for a future in medicine. It truly has had an impact on my life and my decisions about the future; it has taught me to be passionately committed, driven, and zealous about serving society through medicine. HOSA has taught me the power of teamwork and the value of quality leadership. I joined with the hope to learn even more about the medical field; I will leave with a supportive community and newfound confidence.

I urge a do pass on HB 1142. Please help students discover their passions and cultivate their curiosity through HOSA. Feel free to contact me via email at jadynguidinger@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,



Jadyn Guidinger
North Dakota HOSA President
Legacy High School HOSA President

Testimony on HB 1142

Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Chairman Holmberg

March 2021

Chairwoman, and members of the committee, my name is Cherie Roshau, I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1142 for these reasons:

On behalf of Killdeer Public School HOSA, I am testifying in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

As one who has more than forty years of education experience, it is not difficult to recognize the importance of engaging our students in the various forms of learning, one being a “hands-on” approach. HOSA provides an engaging approach to hands-on learning experiences, opening the door to a multitude health career possibilities. HOSA organization has been a source of exposure lighting the fire of interest for our developing future health careers. In 2019,, ninety-six percent of our members became CPR certified. We invited our coaches and teachers to take part in the training as well. The dedicated staff at the Killdeer Ambulance donated their time to provide HOSA members with CPR training.

Our HOSA members raised \$15,000.00 for Howling Wolf family when their son, Benny, contracted West Nile encephalitis. Benny Howling Wolf (aged four) was hospitalized for over a month in Fargo, ND and is now on his road to recovery with his team of physical therapists and doctors in Bismarck, ND. Eight Killdeer Public School HOSA members qualified the 2018 HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas; several Killdeer HOSA members became certified CNA and EMT and are working in nursing home and are working with the local ambulance; the Killdeer Public School HOSA sponsored a fund-raising event to help our principal’s son who was born with “transposition of the great vessels”. He was flown to Bismarck and then to Mayo Clinic. Our HOSA group raised \$7,000.00 for the “Krew Kleeman Medical Benefit”; Killdeer Public School HOSA sponsored several blood drives in which they were required to make phone calls to set up appointments, make arrangements with the school for the event and provide snacks for those donating blood. Note from United Blood Services: “The Killdeer HOSA group recruited 47 community heroes and of that number 36 were eligible to donate, which provided 45 products. A tremendous effort put forth by our future medical professionals and leaders of tomorrow! So much in fact that there were 28 new first-time donors.” Camille Jones, Donor Recruiter United Blood Services; the Killdeer HOSA provided/sponsored a “taping” training seminar for coaches and athletes presented by CHI St. Joseph’s Sports Medicine; the Killdeer High School HOSA members sponsored a visit from the Valley Med Flight which landed on the practice field by the school. Elementary students and HOSA members visited with crew including the pilot, flight nurse, and medical technician, along with

employees from the Killdeer Ambulance; Killdeer High School HOSA member, Chelsea Morlock won the Pin Design Contest for the state of North Dakota. The pin was used at the International Leadership Conference; Killdeer High School HOSA member Keia Holding Eagle designed the winning state HOSA Conference t-shirt.

This a short rendition of the accomplishments achieved by the HOSA Killdeer Public School membership. The question that I place before you is this, “if a small group of young people in western North Dakota are able to impact the world of health careers, what would happen if more schools, more education, more advisors and more financial support were afforded the possibilities?” Could we close the gap and address health care workforce shortages through our students; the future of quality health care professionals.

AHEC has afforded the Killdeer HOSA group with financial and educational opportunities. Our rural North Dakota communities seem to spark health care interest through academics as well as the platform of volunteerism.

Through my role as a HOSA advisor, I have witnessed the promotion of teamwork and community service; encouraging health care education; and lighting the fire of imagination instilling a love of health care learning. None of this would be possible without the collaboration with ND AHEC.

In closing, if we as North Dakota citizens expect quality health care service available to all, it is essential that we invest in the education process at all age levels. With the “collision” force that the corona virus has impacted our lives...every day...every person, we must recognize the education and critical ultimatum for more health care individuals. The North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers are incredibly vital in “growing North Dakota’s own” health care personal . We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

I urge a “Do Pass” on House Bill 1142, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherie Roshau
Killdeer HOSA Advisor
Retired

Testimony on HB 1142**March 23, 2021**

**Submitted by Brad Gibbens, MPA,
 Acting Director Center for Rural Health
 AHEC Principal Investigator**

Senate Appropriations, Chairman Ray Holmberg:

Good afternoon, Chairman Holmberg and committee members. My name is Brad Gibbens, I am the Acting Director of the Center for Rural Health, located within the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). I am also the Principle Investigator for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office which is located in our office. I would first like to thank you, and your fellow legislators, for providing support since 2013 for healthcare workforce development activities, supported by the AHEC. A word on my background. I have been directly involved with rural health, at CRH, since 1985. Health workforce has been a focus of CRH since the office was created by the legislature and the UNDSMHS in 1980. If there is an issue that is constant in rural health it is finding ways to improve access to vital health services, and that involves building a viable health workforce base. AHEC is a critical step in doing this.

As background, the federal AHEC grant program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations. North Dakota was actually classified as a “1st generation AHEC” as the School of Medicine had an AHEC grant in the mid-1970’s which was used to establish the four medical campuses that are still in operation. The federal grant dollars ended sometime in the early-to-mid 1980’s; nevertheless, new federal opportunities for states developed in the 2000’s. Today, 48 states and the District of Columbia operate AHEC programs with more than 261 centers operating across the country.

In 2008, the Center for Rural Health was awarded a new AHEC grant through the federal Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). AHECs have a continual focus on improving the health care system by working with academic institutions, health care settings, health and commerce related agencies and/or associations, and community-based organizations. Through these longstanding partnerships, the AHECs employ traditional and innovative approaches to develop and train a diverse health care workforce prepared to deliver high-quality, team-based care, with an emphasis on primary care for rural and underserved communities. We appreciate the important partnership we have with the ND Department of Commerce. Their focus on working with the private sector (including health institutions) and the academic sector is vital in creating employment options. They are critical to the AHEC and its function.

CRH is home to a number of health workforce related programs and efforts: This includes the following:

- AHEC,
- Health workforce specialist who works with rural communities on recruitment and retention including state and federal loan repayment, the national recruitment data base 3RNet, residency program visits, and Primary Care week;

- Yearly Scrub Camps hosted in rural communities and two Scrub Academies (one at the UNDSMHS) to provide K-12 students opportunities to learn about health careers and interact with health professionals;
- Partnership with the ND Department of Health's Primary Care Office; and
- Health workforce related data assessments.

We also collaborate with our UNDSMHS Department of Family and Community Medicine on a process to assist rural organizations and communities be stronger practice sites, support and staff the Rural Health Interest Group which is a volunteer process at the UNDSMHS for medical and MPH students to learn about rural health and practice factors, and engage with many state wide associations and interests groups to develop greater coordination of efforts. Having a comprehensive approach to address rural health workforce is essential.

AHEC's are federally required to; 1) be administered through medical schools (unless there is not a medical school in the state); 2) obtain a 1:1 non-federal match; 3) establish regional centers off-campus in rural and/or underserved communities' and 4) distribute 75% of the federal funds to the (two) regional centers. In addition to the program office, ND has two regional AHEC centers. One is located in Mayville (Eastern AHEC) and the other located in Hettinger (Western AHEC). The Center for Rural Health, administers the federal grant and is designated as the AHEC State Program Office. The federal AHEC program guidelines task the Program Office with supporting and guiding the regional centers. The CRH uses the (25 percent) federal funds (and transfers 75 percent of federal funding to the two regional AHECs), to support the regional centers with program activity/participant tracking, evaluation, graphic design, web design and maintenance, communication/promotion so they can utilize their time and resources for grass root programs which you will hear about today. For UND there is also a 1:1 non-federal match, and as this is a training grant the indirect payment rate for the federal funding is 8 percent. It is important to note that the State funding received since 2013, administered through the ND Department of Commerce, as well as other non-federal funding is utilized only in the two regional centers. The request for state funding does not go to CRH or the UNDSMHS. It is for direct service through the Hettinger and Mayville offices.

At CRH we view recruiting and retaining primary care providers, and other health professionals, as the primary responsibility of local health care facilities. Our role is to facilitate, assist, identify resources, and administer programs that assist the local providers. However, we also know the reality of how stretched the limited staff and finances are in our rural communities. Therefore, the AHEC, and other statewide partners are integral to expand the reach of local recruiting efforts by coordinating activities and leveraging a variety of resources. As is common in most initiatives, building collaborative trust relationships is fundamental to success. The AHEC staff has successfully served as "the glue" that brings the needed resources to communities, local health organizations, health providers, schools (e.g. elementary/secondary/post-secondary), and others, to improve health workforce options and opportunities for all North Dakotans. As you will hear today, from the regional director's, workforce development is multi-faceted and we need a team. Collaboration is a key to addressing rural health issues and AHEC is a collaborative model with many partners and a close connection to the community. It is critical to approach this at various points along the workforce pipeline – "growing our own" through K-12 activities; supporting health professional students in rural community-based learning opportunities; and assisting with recruitment of health professionals. As a testament to the impact of the AHEC, we have included several letters of support and/or testimony from key stakeholders/partners.

Thank you for your past support and for the opportunity to present today.

Brad Gibbens, Acting Director Center for Rural Health, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Principal Investigator AHEC Program Office

Brad.gibbens@und.edu Phone: 701-330-7941 (cell number) or 701-777-3848 CRH main line



Stands for Jobs

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

P.O. Box 615 109 South Main Hettinger, ND 58639 • 701.637.0177
western.ndahec.org

North Dakota Area Health Education Center Testimony on HB 1142

House Appropriations Human Services Committee

Room: Sakakawea

Senator Lee

Denise Andress – Director, Western Area Health Education Center

Chairwoman and members of the committee, my name is Denise Andress. I am a registered nurse and Director of the Western North Dakota Area Health Education Center.

The North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (ND AHEC), based on federal guidelines, must be housed in rural areas, where citizens served by the ND AHEC reside. The regional centers based in Mayville, ND and Hettinger, ND provide the rural opportunities at the grass roots level separated from the major urban areas of ND (Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks). The ND AHEC has leveraged dollars from Federal, state and private funds for rural health care programs. The ND AHEC has three core focus areas: Kindergarten through college, rural clinical rotations for health profession students, and continuing education for health care professionals. Each of these core areas is vital for meeting the health care workforce needs of rural North Dakota.

I am excited to share some of our accomplishments since the last biennium, ND AHEC has:

- Reached over 23,256 participants and in every county in ND;
- Supported \$103,111 in health occupation activities for students;
- Assisted 144 students in rural clinical rotations;
- Contributed towards continuing education for health professionals; and
- Increased the number of HOSA-Future Health Professionals student led high school organization chapters to 16; with 584 student members and since 2012 have had 2084 non duplicate HOSA members.

In the last four biennium our funding for the ND AHEC has been placed in the Department of Commerce, Workforce Division (NDDOC). In these years, we have met the contractual requirements of the program requests. Within the Workforce Division of the NDDOC, ND AHEC has been the healthcare component identifying the workforce needs in rural areas. The following is a list of the biennium with financial state contributions as follow to provide health care development, employment and recruitment:

- 2013-2015 Biennium: \$400,000
- 2015-2017 Biennium: \$200,000

- 2017-2019 Biennium: \$0 allocated from the legislature; \$300,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce - Commissioners Discretionary funds
- 2019-2021 Biennium: \$0 allocated from legislature; \$200,000 provided from North Dakota Department of Commerce-Commissioners Discretionary funds

We are very proud of our accomplishments because of the funding we have received.

I will highlight three key programs:

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a student led high school organization. It is the ONLY health care specific student organization in the state. As I previously mentioned, we currently are working with 584 students and have begun tracking them as they participate in HOSA activities. Currently, in the 164 public high schools in the state, only 46 offer a health career course; with only 28 health career instructors; 22 of which are in our four large or urban communities and only 6 serving rural. HOSA-Future Health Professionals program fills the gap in rural communities by utilizing rural health care professionals to mentor students. Through this program we are working to grow the pipeline of students who become health care providers in the state of North Dakota.

ND AHEC also supports health profession students in existing rural experiences and also assists with arranging new rural clinical rotations. More importantly, we work directly with these students to engage them in local activities outside of work. Recruitment of health care providers is easier if they have had the opportunity to 'live local' and get to know the people and the community environment. We are also tracking these students in an effort to identify what health care related activities they participated in and where they put roots down. This program is becoming more critical to the healthcare organizations in our state. We have had several critical access hospitals requesting housing and travel support for healthcare students. Because of an increase of locum travel support, increase demands on preceptors and unavailability of housing for students, some students are having to pay to live in these areas. As you can imagine, this has become more so during Covid. Housing for our students has not been the option for students that have normally stayed with an elderly couple or in a room at the hospital. These students are now looking into hotels so they can complete their rural rotation.

A new program AHEC has is the AHEC Scholars program. Requirements for this program include the last 2 years of the health care program (or last one year if a technical program), each year complete 40 hours of a rural clinical rotation and complete 40 hours of didactics directly related to rural and underserved populations. This program currently has 45 students we are tracking, not surprising, there has been 20 students in the last 2 months that have been recruited for this program. As this program grows to 50 students, we will have to cap the number of students participating. We will not have the funding to add other students which will limit the opportunity to recruit health care students to rural ND. With legislative support, the ND AHEC could expand this program to support students going to rural areas where the healthcare professionals are in critical need.

The nursing shortage that we are experiencing is much more crucial in our rural areas than in our urban counterparts. The ND AHEC is working with our rural healthcare facilities to consider implementing a rural nursing program. We work with the facilities and make connections with academic institutions to bring the rural nursing program to their community. We are making that link. Watford City and Hettinger are adding to the list of community based technical nursing programs to “grow their own”. We are working with these facilities to plan ahead and solve this nursing shortage. We help them to identify community resource and local talent so our rural students can continue to work for their facility, make an income and be with their families. We are asking too much of them to travel miles from their home for an education when we can bring it right to their home town. Programs like the Dakota Nursing program can assist these communities in development of the rural nursing program. It is imperative that we are out there to work with these communities.

With all our additional programs, we are continuously evaluating them to ensure effectiveness in achieving our mission. We need to improve evaluation with students in high school and college to identify what health care career path they are pursuing, and whether they would like to work in primary care or in a rural and/or an underserved community. Just recently we identified the 2094 no duplicate students that have participated in HOSA since 2012. To receive federal funds, we are obligated to report specific program data; however, we need to expand our data collection efforts to better identify the reach of the AHEC and to best meet the needs of our rural communities.

A sincere thank you, for your support in the last legislative session. To continue the successful work of North Dakota AHEC, and on behalf of our rural communities, please support House Bill 1142.

If you have questions at this time, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you,

Denise Andress, RN, MBA
Director, Western ND AHEC
Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone - 701.928.0830
Email – denise@ndahec.org

**Testimony****Bill: HB #1142****Senate Appropriations Committee****March 23, 2021****Chairman Holmberg**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Michael Curtis. I serve as the Executive Director of the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. (MCHS) in Watford City, North Dakota and am currently in the process of transitioning into the CEO role. I am here to provide support for the critical work of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program.

The position of determining which programs to fund is daunting under the best of circumstances; how much more so during a pandemic? This pandemic has impacted North Dakota residents physically, psychologically, and economically, leaving many with a sense of uncertainty. And yet every situation can provide learning opportunities. This pandemic exposed weaknesses in North Dakota's healthcare infrastructure; one in particular stands above the rest—"staffed bed." The cause was lack of available nursing staff.

The Critical Access Hospital within MCHS has 24 brand new licensed beds; we were able to staff 10. The limitation was available nursing staff. The short-term solution was, and has always been, travel staff. However, we were already using a notable number of travel staff in multiple departments before the pandemic. The effects of this approach were muted by the national staffing shortage. We then reduced elective surgeries in order to pull surgical nurses to the inpatient floor. This did not expand our capacity; it merely filled the staffing gaps created by staff attrition due to Covid-19 infection, isolation, and quarantine. The reliance on travel staff was concerning before; the pandemic made it untenable.

Our inaugural LPN class began in the Fall of 2020 in concert with Williston State College, with the goal to move into an RN program in the near future. This pivotal milestone will help reduce our long-term nursing shortage. However, it will not address the number of qualified applicants to the program. An increase in the number of qualified applicants is best achieved through exposure to healthcare careers in high school. AHEC supports many programs; however, its support to expand HOSA-Future Health Professionals chapters is one way to increase healthcare career exposure in high schools.

There is a national shortage of healthcare professionals. The long-term solution is not to recruit staff away from other states. The long-term solution is to "grow our own."

Therefore, I urge support to the ND AHEC program and bill HB #1142.

Michael Curtis

Executive Director

mcurtis@mchsnd.org

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc.

HB 1142
Senate Appropriations
Chair Senator Ray Holmberg
March 23, 2021 3:45pm
Roughrider Room
Appropriations of \$250,000

Chairman Senator Ray Holmberg and the members of the committee, my name is Garrett Calkins. I apologize for not being able to attend in person as I am currently on a forty-eight-hour shift in my pursuit of my dream as a health care provider and have classes to attend at the same time as the committee meeting. I am currently a full time Emergency Medical Technician and a Freshman at the University of North Dakota. I started and competed in HOSA Future Health Professionals during my junior year at Killdeer High School. During that same year I applied to be on the ND HOSA state officer board and was awarded the position. I went to several HOSA international competitions and leadership conventions. During that time, it showed me how to be a better leader on a local and state level and also where I wanted to take my passion for medicine. Throughout my term as a ND HOSA state officer, I obtained my Emergency Medical Responder certification and made it to the International HOSA Convention where I was awarded the Outstanding State Leadership Award. HOSA helped me to see that I loved medicine and started actively pursuing going into the medical field. After graduating from Killdeer High School, I decided to pursue getting an Emergency Medical Technician certification which I did during the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I also started college with a major in Biology: Professional Health Sciences Emphasis while also being in the Pre-Med program. I am currently working toward my dream of being a Pediatrician. Without HOSA and NDAHEC and the funding they receive from the state of ND, I most likely would be following a different path than the one I am currently on. I really appreciate being apart of HOSA as it gave me an opportunity

to work closely with Killdeer Area Ambulance Service and help guide younger students toward where they might want to go in the medical field.

-Garrett Calkins

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1142
4/7/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for health care workforce needs in rural areas of the state.
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Senator Holmberg opened the committee work at 11:06 AM.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.**

Discussion Topics:

- Vote

Senator Bekkedahl moved Do Not Pass on HB 1142.
Senator Wanzek second.

<i>Senators</i>		<i>Senators</i>	
<i>Senator Holmberg</i>	Y	<i>Senator Hogue</i>	Y
<i>Senator Krebsbach</i>	Y	<i>Senator Oehlke</i>	Y
<i>Senator Wanzek</i>	Y	<i>Senator Poolman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Bekkedahl</i>	Y	<i>Senator Rust</i>	Y
<i>Senator Davison</i>	Y	<i>Senator Sorvaag</i>	Y
<i>Senator Dever</i>	Y	<i>Senator Heckaman</i>	N
<i>Senator Erbele</i>	Y	<i>Senator Mathern</i>	N

Roll Call vote 12-2-0. Motion passed.

Senator Bekkedahl will carry the bill.

Senator Holmberg closed the committee work at 11:23 AM.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1142, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1142 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.