



NDSA-14-2021

A Resolution Supporting SB 2161

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2161, introduced on January 11, 2021, proposes the creation of a mental health provider registry to be made available on the North Dakota Department of Human Service's Website; and,

WHEREAS, this database would be free to use and available for students in higher education to utilize, as well as the general public; and,

WHEREAS, numerous students in higher education have experienced overwhelming stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic that may have caused mental health issues and concerns; and,

WHEREAS, a public registry listing mental health providers in the state would increase student access to mental health resources and providers, immensely benefiting students as they are learning through unprecedented times; and,

WHEREAS, behavioral and mental health are one of NDSA's 20-21 legislative priorities, as stated in "NDSA Legislative Priorities: Pre-Session" and NDSA-06-2021: "A Resolution in Support of NDSA's 2020-2021 Legislative Priorities"; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA supports SB 2161, relating to a mental health provider registry; and

BE IT FURTHERST RESOLVED, the NDSA continues to advocate for increased mental health access and resources for students throughout the state.

Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, January 30th, 2021.