Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: John Torkel Wayne Bjorklund (Off-Campus Senator)

Sponsors:

CC: Brandon Beyer - Student Body President, Blake Andert - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Laurie Betting - Vice President for Student Affairs, Cara Halgren - Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students

Date: 01/25/2017

Re: University of North Dakota Student Senate Stands Opposed to North Dakota's House Bill No. 1458 and Current Federal Standards in Regards to Alcohol

Whereas, the University of North Dakota (UND) Student Senate believes in individual liberty, and both the responsibilities and privileges that such liberty requires, and

Whereas, the goal of UND Student Senate is to protect the University students from government overreach, while promoting a healthy and safe campus environment, and

Whereas, the UND Student Senate acknowledges that North Dakota House Bill No.1458 does not provide evidence in the form of statistics or publicly available records, and questions the implicit assumption that “underage” drinking is problematic to society and worthy of legislative action, and

Whereas, the penalties assessed in House Bill No. 1458 are draconian in nature, they are stricter than a DUI, which has a far greater and proven record of harm to human life and safety, and

Whereas, the priorities of the state are clearly backwards, with an attempt to obtain additional source of revenue by exploiting an impoverished and vulnerable group, and

Whereas, UND Student Senate believes that if college students are responsible enough to serve our country, and take out tens of thousands of dollars in debt in order to get basic career training, should be responsible enough to make choices regarding our own health and well-being, then a college student who is typically over the age of 18 should be responsible enough make choices regarding their consumption of alcoholic beverages, and

Whereas, UND Student Senate believes a greater conversation needs to be had about the drinking age, in addition to the distribution of alcohol to so called “minors” (18-21), and

Therefore, be it moved that UND Student Senate stands opposed to North Dakota House Bill No. 1458 and the current standard of 21 or younger being considered a minor in regards to alcohol.

Brandon Beyer, Student Body President