Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Chris Petschen – Director of Governmental Affairs

Sponsors: Mackenzie Macmillan – College of Engineering and Mines Senator, Anthony Mussehl – Off-Campus Senator

CC: Erik Hanson - Student Body President, Kaleb Dschaak - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Frelich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Cara Halgren - Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity.

Date: 1/22/2019

Re: In Support of ND SB 2334 for the Creation of a Senior Year Tuition Waiver Program for STEM Graduates of North Dakota Institutions of Higher Education

Whereas, The University of North Dakota aims to serve as the chief opportunity engine of the state of North Dakota, and

Whereas, it has been estimated that the state of North Dakota currently has between 15,000 and 25,000 unfilled jobs, many in the sectors of energy, technology, and the skilled trades, and

Whereas, the state’s institutions of higher education serve as a major pipeline of qualified graduates to fill jobs in North Dakota, and

Whereas, currently, many UND graduates—specifically in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields are drawn to neighboring states for many reasons such as better financial opportunities, and

Whereas, ND SB 2334 aims to offset the comparative advantage of job markets in neighboring states by creating a program to provide senior year tuition waivers for graduates of STEM programs who choose to live and work in North Dakota for three years after graduation, and

Whereas, The University of North Dakota, along with the other institutions of higher education in the state, stand to benefit from this bill in multiple ways, including recruitment, retention, and the strengthening of relationships between STEM programs and the industry leaders of the state, and

Whereas, the state of North Dakota stands to benefit from this program, which seeks to reduce the number of unfilled jobs in the state by incentivizing it’s students to work for and invest in the state, and

Therefore, be it moved that UND Student Government stands in support of ND SB 2334 for the creation of a senior year tuition waiver program for STEM graduates of North Dakota institutions of higher education.