

Dear ND ASPIRE Members,

SB 2062 is now being considered by the House Education Committee. This bill will allocate money for both merit-based and need-based state grants. The merit-based portion is called the Opportunity Grant. The need-based portion right now allocates over \$20 Million and caps individual grants at \$2000 with priority given to the neediest students. As you know, right now the ND state grant is capped at \$1000, although I've never had a student who got that much. There is discussion in House Education to increase the total amount of aid available in this bill to \$40 Million. This was the amount that the Governor had included in his budget. If any of your representatives are on this committee, please contact them and let them know that you support the \$2000 maximum for individual grants with priority given to the neediest students. Also, let them know that you also support increasing the total amount of need-based aid in this bill to \$40 Million, the amount proposed by the Governor, so that more students can receive this grant. If this bill gets a DO PASS recommendation from House Education with this increase, it has a better chance of being passed by the full House. This is the first step. Here are the names of the 14 members of the House Education Committee.

### **House Education**

RaeAnn G. Kelsch - Chairman (34)

Lisa Meier - Vice Chairman (32)

Lyle Hanson (12)

Brenda Heller (33)

Bob Hunskor (6)

Dennis Johnson (15)

Karen Karls (35)

Jerry Kelsh (26)

Corey Mock (42)

Phillip Mueller (24)

Lee Myxter (27)

David S. Rust (2)

Mike Schatz (36)

John D. Wall (25)